

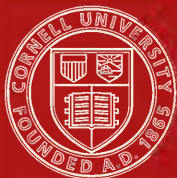


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TO
BUNDORAN.

Until 31st OCTOBER NEXT, INCLUSIVE, TOURISTS' TICKETS,

Available for One Month, exclusive of day of issue, will be issued from Amiens-street Terminus, Dublin (by any but Limited Mail Train), to Bundoran and back, Daily (Sundays excepted), at the following

Return Fares.

For One Passenger .. 1st Class, 36s.; 2nd Class, 27s.

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1st Class, 20s.; 2nd Class, 15s.; 3rd Class, 10s.

These Tickets do not enable the Holders to break the journey at Enniskillen, Irvinestown, Belleek, or Castlecaldwell.

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*WITH TWELVE TINTED ILLUSTRATIONS, AND A
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PREFACE.

WE are not without a hope that, in publishing a Second Edition of the Guide to Furness Abbey, we are presenting to the public the fullest and most trustworthy handbook extant for that noble ruin and its charming neighbourhood. Such revision as we found necessary has been made, and, with the addition of the tinted plates and new map, we trust our tourist friends will find herein a really "Picturesque Guide."

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GUIDE TO FURNESS ABBEY.

APPROACHES.

FROM CARNFORTH.

“No poetry in railways ! foolish thought
Of a dull brain to no fine music wrought.”

“Of all the antagonists to mental depression, travelling is the most vigorous ; not the flight from place to place, as if evil were to be outrun ; nor the enclosure of the weary of life in some narrow vehicle that adds fever and pestilence to heaviness of heart ; but the passing at our ease through the open air and bright landscape of a new country.”—
REV. DR. CROLY.

THE Furness Railways having been connected with the grand system of railway communication, by the completion of the “Over-sands” line, visitors from the South are now carried with greater despatch and comfort to the district of Furness, “the key to the Lakes,” than in the old coaching days, when passengers embarked at Hest Bank, in a four-wheel locomotive, under the guidance of a venturesome Jehu, and entered upon the crossing of the treacherous sands with many misgivings. If the rattling train does not invest the trip with so much romance, or allow time for a prolonged gaze at the rising hills from the vast wilderness of sand, as the old coach did, the practical comfort, the ease and absence of risk, not to speak of the novelty, and the tantalizing rapidity with which peeps of lovely scenery pass across the vision in

kaleidoscopic succession, more than compensate for the change, and we are ready to say with Charles Mackay,

“Blessings on Science, and her handmaid Steam.”

The train takes us out of the station at Carnforth junction, a place of rapidly-increasing importance from its participation in the iron trade of the district, and after crossing the river Keer, and skirting a portion of the Lancaster sands, glides along through meadows, and by mosses and streamlets, whose still, dark, peat-coloured water contrasts greatly with the foaming tide just passed. Beyond, and further inland, may be seen rugged limestone upheavals, ridges of which branch out in strange and grotesque forms in every direction. We soon arrive at the station of

SILVERDALE

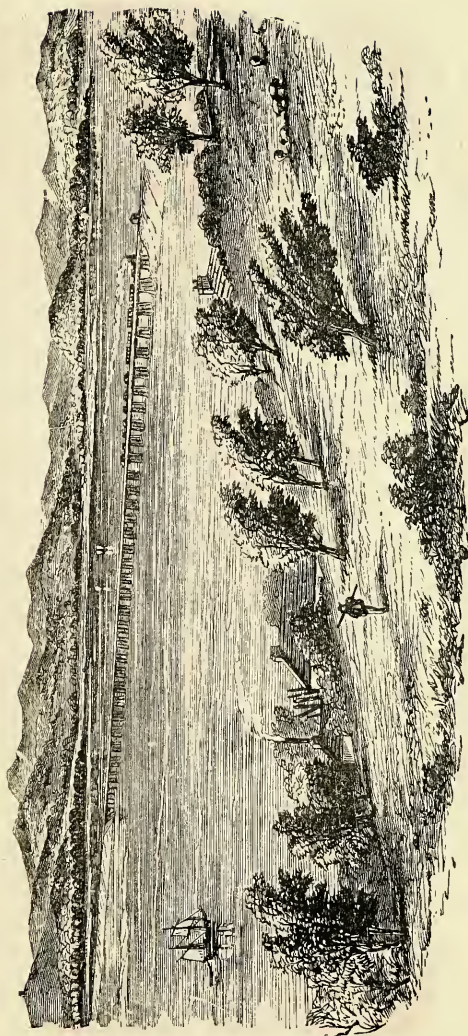
(Three miles and three-quarters from Carnforth, and twenty-one miles and a quarter from Furness Abbey).

This delightfully sequestered spot is not seen to advantage from the railway, as it lies away a mile over the hill, but is becoming much frequented by lovers of quiet rural life during the season. It is a straggling village, but contains some nice residences and a small church. Two hotels as well as lodging houses afford excellent accommodation for visitors, who annually enjoy sea-bathing on the fine sands.

Leaving Silverdale, we pass by fields, an occasional farmstead or cottage, and crossing a little open we espy, between two wooded hills, the old tower of Arnside, once the abode of the Stanleys, one of those massive piles built by the ancient lords of the soil, and common hereabouts, for the defence and temporary shelter of the inhabitants during the frequent expeditions of Scottish marauders or other unprincipled freebooters who infested the northern counties. Immediately after this we reach

ARNSIDE

Six miles from Carnforth, nineteen miles from Furness Abbey). From this place a view of the estuary of the Kent is obtained as far as Milnthorpe, with the tops of the



KENT VIADUCT.

Westmorland mountains in the distance. Nearer, is Whitbarrow Scar, a bare weather-beaten mass of rock, and at our feet the channel of the river Kent. Arnside is a favourite watering-place of the people of Kendal, and is much frequented in summer, the two hotels and many private houses being generally crowded with people. The "Knot," the hill which rises above the place, affords charming and varied prospects.

Quitting the station, we round a point; the sea-side portion of the village comes into sight, and has a very pretty effect by the time we reach the viaduct, especially if the tide be flowing. The sensations we experience on seeing the waves lashing the embankment and the iron pillars of the bridge, which the train rapidly traverses, can be better imagined than described, and there is a certain feeling of relief as we once more reach *terra firma*. Here a large tract of land has been reclaimed by a work of stone jutting from the line to a point of land marked by a projecting crag. We are now rushing past the edge of the Methop Fell, covered with holly and yew; next over the river Winster, which divides Westmorland from this detached portion of Lancashire. About a square mile of land has here been snatched from the sea. Snugly ensconced between rising hills, plentifully decorated with trees, a peculiar looking eminence attracts the eye from its partially isolated situation—Castle Head, once a Roman-British station, now part of the grounds belonging to a large mansion which peeps above the woods at the foot.

A little on the sea-side of the railway, Holme Island, the marine residence of A. Brogden, Esq., M.P., rises out of the sea. It is now approached by a substantial roadway; but a few years ago could only be reached by crossing the sands from the pretty village of

GRANGE

(Nine miles and a half from Carnforth, fifteen miles and a half from Furness Abbey).

Grange has been highly extolled as a retreat for invalids during every season of the year, and, judging from the number of strangers who annually crowd its

inns and lodging-houses, appears to keep up its character. In the village and the immediate neighbourhood are several fine residences, charmingly situated, many delightful walks, numerous objects of interest, and there is, as at Arnside, ample scope for the naturalist to prosecute his researches. The climate is said to resemble Matlock, Buxton, and Torquay.

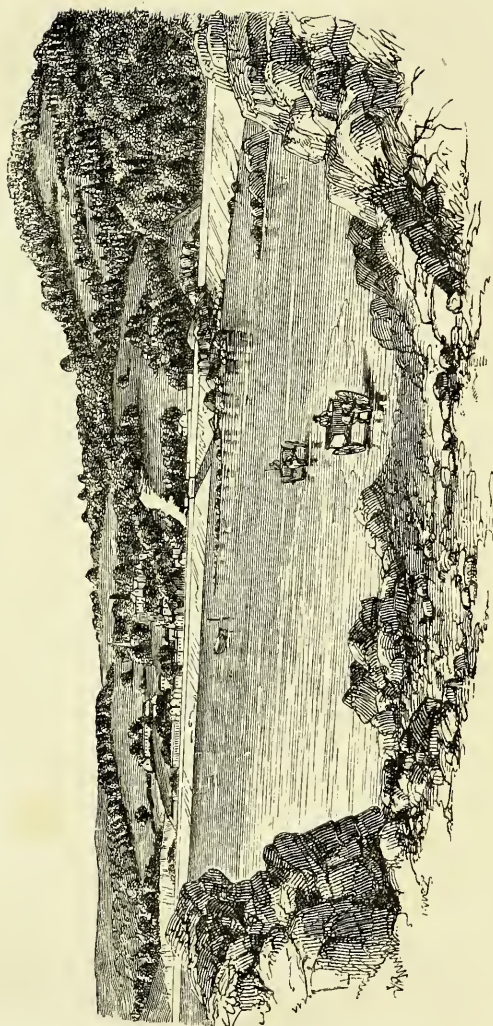
A spacious and magnificent hotel, the property of a limited liability company, occupies a commanding position near the station, and provides accommodation for a large number of visitors.

A fine prospect is here obtained of the opposite shore, from Milnithorpe, Arnside, and Silverdale, to Lancaster, Morecambe, and Fleetwood. The model Temple of Vesta, on Holme Island, is also seen.

An omnibus runs daily between Grange, Newby Bridge, and Lake Side, Windermere.

Leaving Grange, we speed along, passing the village in full view, with its pretty little decorated Gothic church, and houses with terraced gardens dotted here and there; and as we rush by the shore more villas and lodging-houses present themselves at intervals—at Cart-lane a cluster of them—showing that the whole of this side of the estuary of the Kent is in high favour. Kent's Bank is now seen, where former travellers usually commenced the crossing to Lancaster. The long building, once an hotel, is now converted into "lodgings," and among the houses hereabouts the most conspicuous is Abbot's Hall, close to the rocks, which we quickly dash past, emerging into the open by Wyke Farm.

From this point the huge unwieldy form of Humphrey Head is visible, remarkable for the fine views from its summit, as well as for some rare plants on its sides, and for the existence, at its base, of the far-famed mineral spring called Holywell. Near this place, also, is the bone cave of Kirkhead, where many extraordinary remains have lately been found, the result of a most careful and systematic exploration conducted under the superintendence of Mr. J. P. Morris, of Ulverston. On the right is now seen the village of Allithwaite, and close by the railway Wraysholme



GRANGE.

Tower, with which is connected a legend of the Harrington family, concerning "the last wolf" which was hunted down in the neighbouring rocks. It has now degenerated into a farm building; the "pride, pomp, and circumstance" of its former days are extinguished, and the sounds of revelry which once echoed within its walls have given place to the more peaceful and less romantic noises of a farmyard.

Crossing the high-road, the train now enters the station of

CARK

(Thirteen miles and a half from Carnforth, and eleven miles and a half from Furness Abbey).

It is the station for Flookburgh and Cartmel. The former place, as its name indicates, is a fishing village, its inhabitants, with the exception of a few agriculturists, being devoted to catching flukes and cockles, which abound on the adjoining sands.

Cark Hall is a fine specimen of an old manor house, but has been suffered to fall into decay. It was the residence of the ancient family of Rawlinson, one of whom, with other justices, sent George Fox, the first Quaker, to prison, in Lancaster Castle, in 1663.

Cartmel is a quiet old place, like a cathedral town in miniature, happy in the possession of a fine old Priory Church, one of the very few which escaped destruction at the general demolition of monasteries. It is a curious building, but possesses many points of architectural beauty, including a fine oak screen and choir stalls in excellent preservation. There is a curious library of ancient black-letter volumes attached. It has been recently restored, and is well worth a visit.

Emerging from the cutting beyond Cark station, we have a glimpse of the village, with a few exceptions peopled by fishermen, and now proceed at a rapid pace along the rock-bound coast.

The train, leaving parcels of reclaimed land, soon after approaches the well-timbered enclosures of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, which either slope gently towards what was once the beach, or alternate with steep banks, or pretty richly-wooded dells.

Holker Hall, the favourite seat of the Duke, may be descried between the trees on the right. His Grace makes this mansion a frequent residence. He is noted for his public spirit and generous sentiments; and consequently, as may be supposed, exerts a considerable influence in the affairs of the district, in which he takes a lively interest.

The finely-wooded grounds of Conishead appear on the left, extending to the shore, and over the tops of the trees are seen the spires and minarets of the Priory, a modern mansion, erected in a style of princely magnificence, upon the site of an ancient building of that name. Beyond, the hill of Birkkrigg is seen, and the coast line stretching away to the extremity of Furness. Chapel Island, a very picturesque object in the bay, contains the remains of a chapel built by the priors of Conishead for the use of those who were crossing the sands. We are now rumbling over a second viaduct traversing the Leven estuary, which drains the lakes of Coniston and Windermere; and here is obtained a glance at the Lake Mountains, rising in rugged wildness, and nowhere seen to so much advantage as from this point. The village of Sandside, with the stone pier and masts of vessels, is observed on the left, and then we ascend a gradient towards the town of

ULVERSTON

(Nineteen miles from Carnforth, and six miles from Furness Abbey).

The houses are of grey stone, and are snugly situated on slopes or at the base of hills, which protect the town, on the north and east sides, from inclement blasts, and have a picturesque appearance. The hill of Hoad, on which stands the monument to Sir John Barrow, Bart., late secretary to the Admiralty, is a prominent object.

Ulverston is an important town of 9186 inhabitants, and the capital of Furness. It contains two churches, Independent, Wesleyan, and Catholic chapels, besides many handsome public and private buildings. It is



HEAD OF MORECAMBE BAY, FROM LEVEN VIADUCT.

mainly celebrated for its market, which is held every Thursday, and, being the centre of an important district, large quantities of grain and other commodities are disposed of. The town has linen and cotton factories, flour and paper mills, tanneries, iron-foundries, and large mercantile concerns ; the whole appearance of the place imparting the idea of substantial industry and prosperity.

The houses are well built and have neat exteriors—the streets, with a few exceptions, being regular and spacious, and in the vicinity are numerous villas and mansions. Being at the entrance to the Lake District, it is a favourite starting point, or temporary sojourn, for tourists, and formerly coaches ran daily to Milnthorpe on the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway, and over the sands to Lancaster. It is now the junction for the line to Lake Side, Windermere.

Pleasant excursions may be made to various objects of interest in the neighbourhood, as Chapel Island, Conishead Priory, Swarthmoor Hall, formerly the residence of George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, and near to it the meeting-house erected by him ; Barrow's Monument, the cottage in which the worthy baronet was born, and the charming village of Bardsea, much resorted to in summer by visitors in search of change or restoration to health. An omnibus meets some of the trains during the season to convey passengers to Bardsea.

Leaving Ulverston station, the train pursues its course through a cutting in the drift, past the village of Pennington—the plain, white, though conspicuously situated, little church attracting attention. In a level meadow between the church and the railway, and near the latter, may be seen a large oval mound covered with trees, supposed, and with some reason, to be an ancient Saxon tumulus, as its name of Ella-barrow indicates, a corresponding hollow on the other side of the field looking as if it had furnished the earth for the sepulchral monument. The owner has not thought it worth his while hitherto to settle the question with local antiquarians by opening the barrow to test the correctness of their conjectures. On the hill-side above this are

the remains of an old fortification, probably British or Saxon, called Castle Hill, supposed to have been the site also of the residence of the ancient family of Pennington, lords of Muncaster, who lived here before the Conquest. We now perceive on the right the mines of Lindal Moor (Harrison, Ainslie, & Co.), and reaching the depôt where waggons of rich-looking oxide are accumulated, we descend the opposite gradient towards

LINDAL

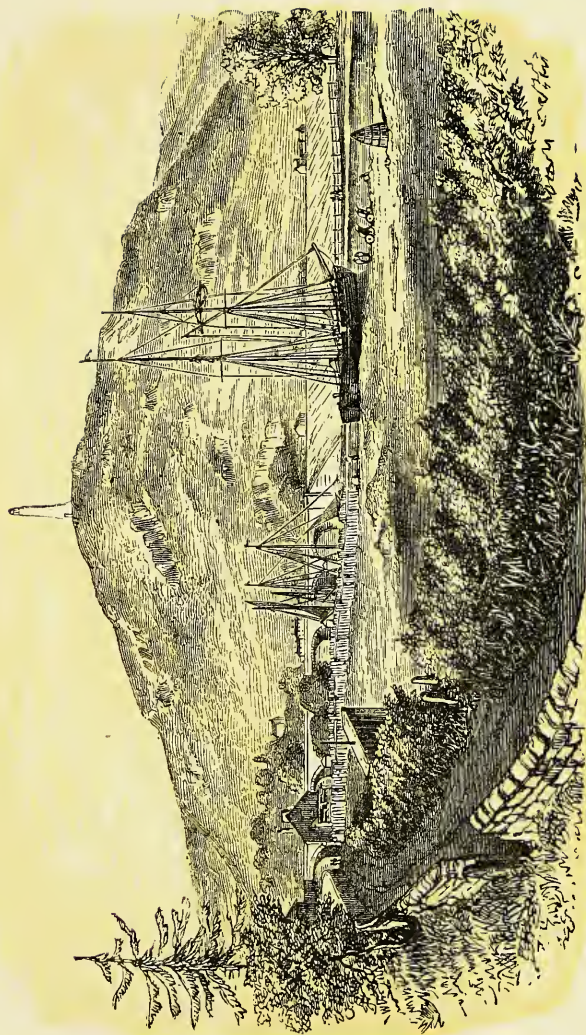
(Twenty-two miles from Carnforth, and three miles from Furness Abbey).

Here we enter the Mining District of Furness, for on each side of the line between us and the coast are the extensive beds of hæmatite iron ore, which yield upwards of 600,000 tons annually. The village lies over to the right, and has a large tarn in the centre, round which the houses are placed. After passing through a tunnel in the limestone rock of about 600 yards in length, and rattling downwards for about a mile, we arrive at

DALTON

(Twenty-three and a half miles from Carnforth, and one mile and a half from Furness Abbey).

Dalton was the ancient capital of Furness, and a place of great importance when the Abbey was at the zenith of its splendour, for it was the nearest market town to which the monks could resort; besides, at this place the abbots held their manorial courts and sat in judgment on criminal cases. The only remains of their strong castle is the tower on the top of the hill near the market-cross. It has lately been restored, and is used for holding the court of the Duke of Buccleuch, lord of the manor, and serves also as an armoury for the local rifle corps. The church is remarkable for an ancient stone font, said once to have belonged to Furness Abbey. Dalton is supposed to have been the site of a Roman station. Within the last few years the town has increased in a remarkable degree; the population now slightly exceeds 30,000. We pass through a short tunnel, and emerge into a pleasant valley, which



SIR JOHN FARROW'S MONUMENT.



MONUMENT TO SIR JOHN BARROW, BART.—HILL OF HOAD.

narrows as we approach; and embowered in trees on either side are two fine mansions, on the right Mill-wood, and on the left Abbots-wood, the residence of James Ramsden, Esq., J.P. The train glides through trees of nobler size into the very midst of the sequestered spot where the Abbey of St. Mary of Furness rears its venerable head

“Like ancient Rome, majestic in decay.”

The bustle of the arrival and other incidental circumstances having subsided, we find but one step leads into that delightful retreat which even yet breathes an odour of sanctity, and which those old pioneers of religion chose with their usual good taste for their secluded abode.

FROM FLEETWOOD.

“I look forth
Over the boundless blue, where, joyously,
The bright crests of innumerable waves
Glance to the sun at once, as when the hands
Of a great multitude are upward flung
In acclamation.”—BRYANT.

STEAMBOATS ply in summer between Piel and Fleetwood, in connection with trains to and from Preston, also between Piel and the Isle of Man, and steamers run daily to and from Belfast for the trains of the Furness and Midland Railway. The voyage across the bay occupies on an average one hour and a half, and the trip is a remarkably pleasant one in fine weather. Before we approach Piel, we have an excellent view afforded us of the gloomy ruin of the ancient castle of Piel of Fouldrey, which exhibits little or no traces of exterior ornament, its walls being reduced to a mere shell, its outworks demolished, and a part of the very hill on which it was raised washed away by the tide. The outer walls, in many parts entire, enclose a large space, and are encircled by a moat. The Castle was

built by one of the Abbots of Furness, in the reign of Edward III., according to one writer A.D. 1327, but it is supposed that long before that time the Danes built themselves a station here. The walls are very massive, and are formed of boulders from the beach, with here and there a piece of limestone or Permian sandstone for the exterior and interior facings, the middle being filled up with rubble and grout work run in hot lime, rendering the whole so massive that several huge blocks which have fallen within reach of the tide still preserve their integrity. The doorways and windows are of red sandstone. This ancient fortress was constructed on the general plan of castles of the Anglo-Norman period, which often occupied a considerable space of ground, and usually consisted of three principal divisions—the outer court or bailey, the inner court, and the keep or donjon, that is, the main central building. Within these courts were a chapel, stable, and soldiers' lodgings. The outer circumference of the whole was defended by a lofty and solid perpendicular wall strengthened at intervals by towers, and surrounded by a ditch or moat. The entrance archway through the outer walls was, besides the massive gates, crossed by a portcullis, which could be instantaneously dropped upon any emergency; and the crown of the arch was pierced with holes, through which molten lead and pitch, and heavy missiles, could be cast upon the assailants below. The keep was the last retreat of the garrison, and contained the apartments of the baron or commandant. The solidity of its construction in this instance is so great, that we find it retaining its outward form in the midst of the most dilapidated ruin. The inner court, as well as the outer, was protected by a moat. As we pass this relic of olden time, we cannot help reflecting, while we contemplate its "gaping chinks and aged countenance," on those stirring times, the so-called "dark ages," when the mailed nobles made might right, declared their pleasure and called it law, acting upon

" The good old rule, the simple plan,
That those should take who have the power,
And those should keep who can."



PIEL CASTLE.

And truly one feels a touch of sadness when gazing on such monuments of departed grandeur, for although there is none of that architectural beauty in their peculiar style, characteristic of religious edifices of the same period—no “lofty pointed windows, with their storied panes, to admit the full broad stream of radiant splendour,” or to give the idea of elegance to the structure—yet, as it stands in picturesque outline, all is “massive, great, and impressively solemn.” We now come alongside the pier at Roa Island, near which is the coastguard station and hotel, with the village of Rampside close by, and, entering the waiting train, are soon spinning along to Furness Abbey. It was at Piel where Lambert Simnel, who pretended to be one of the princes said to have been murdered in the Tower, landed with Colonel Swart, 2000 Germans, and some Irish followers, in the reign of Henry VII., marching through Ulverston to Stoke, where they were met by the king’s forces and entirely defeated. Simnel, who was a baker’s boy, and doubtless a monomaniac, or a simple tool in the hands of designing men, was taken prisoner, and by the king’s clemency was appointed to a post of insignificance in the royal household. Beyond an expanse of sand, we descry the masts of a number of vessels, and the buildings of the rapidly-increasing seaport town of

BARROW,

With the tall chimneys and flaming furnaces of Hindpool in the distance.

This thriving town has increased in a most extraordinary manner, from a mere hamlet to a place of 18,000 inhabitants, in about twenty years, mainly through the rapid development of the mineral riches of the district, since the opening of the Furness Railway, by which the port of Barrow became available for purposes of shipment ; also through the erection at Hindpool, by Messrs. Schneider, Hannay, & Co., of their large blast furnaces, the property of the Barrow Hæmatite Iron and Steel and Mining Co., which are capable of turning out about 160,000 tons of hæmatite pig iron yearly. These works well deserve a

visit. A comprehensive plant has been contrived for making steel by the Bessemer process, in a special manner, and in unusual quantities, by a powerful company, so that ere long the district will prove a noted mart for the iron trade. These works will be the largest of their kind in the world, and when in full vigour will, it is expected, turn out 1400 tons of steel weekly, and give employment to 2000 men. There are two beautiful churches, as well as Congregational, Wesleyan, Roman Catholic, and other chapels. Barrow possesses also a town-hall and market-house, a temperance hall, and a mechanics' institute.

The town is a wonderful example of the results of commercial enterprise, for in addition to the large block of buildings necessary for a railway terminus and its executive, there are extensive manufactories and hives of industry, covering a large space of ground, which must eventually tend greatly to the advancement of the town.

An immense outlay has also been incurred in the formation of docks on a grand scale, and efforts are being made to produce a harbour capable of affording accommodation for vessels of large tonnage, so as to establish and secure advantages which, if obtained, will enhance the value of this seaport to a considerable extent, and impart to it a position of importance on the coast. The main dock or float covers 120 acres, and there is a graving dock 500 feet long. These docks will receive vessels drawing twenty-five feet of water. In 1847, the iron ore carried by the railway was 103,768 tons; in 1857 it had increased to 562,095 tons, of which 545,099 were shipped; and in 1863 it amounted to 621,525 tons, of which 406,625 were sent to Barrow for shipment and consumption at the iron works, the residue being carried inward by rail. Of copper ore the shipments from this port are about 3000 tons annually, and of slate about 6000 tons out of a production of about 20,000 tons, the remainder being sent into the country by railway. In 1867, Barrow received a charter of incorporation, and James Ramsden, Esq., J. P., Managing Director of the Furness Railways, was elected the first mayor.

Passing the point where the road turns off to Barrow, the train stops for a few minutes at

ROOSE,

A small road-side station, and very shortly afterwards, proceeding through some meadow land, dashes through a short tunnel into the very grounds of the Abbey.

FROM AMBLESIDE.

“‘Turn where we may,’ said I, ‘we cannot err
In this delicious region.’ Clustered slopes,
Wild tracts of forest ground, and scattered groves,
And mountains bare, or clothed with ancient woods,
Surrounded us; and as we held our way
Along the level of the glassy flood
They ceased not to surround us; change of place,
From kindred features diversely combined,
Producing change of beauty, ever new.”—THE EXCURSION.

AMBLESIDE is a small market town, of 9658 inhabitants, situated directly under Wansfell, and upon the spot formerly occupied by a Roman station, the name of the fort having been lost in obscurity. It is enclosed by mountains on all sides except towards the south-west, the houses having a pleasing appearance, though irregularly built, for the place enjoys a situation of great beauty, commanding charming prospects of the parks of Rydal and Brathay, and the lake of Windermere. Ambleside is on the border of a well-wooded valley, watered by several streams, the principal one being the Rothay, which flows from Grasmere and Rydal lakes, and joins the Brathay from Langdale shortly before entering Windermere. The old church, built in 1812, stands in the western part of the town, but, being found too small to accommodate the visitors in summer, the new church of St. Mary was consecrated in 1854, and is very remarkable in appearance. It is nearly in the centre of the valley, between the Knoll (Miss Harriet Martineau's residence) and the lake, and

is built of dark grey stone, but the spire is of freestone, as are also the mullions of the windows, the copings of the buttresses, and the facings of the doors. The church will seat 900 persons ; and in the north-east corner are three stained glass windows, one of which was presented by friends of Wordsworth, both English and American, as a memorial of the poet. The Town Hall is a new and handsome building, presented by the late Benson Harrison, Esq., and besides proving of great utility, is an ornament to the place. Stock Ghyll Force is a very attractive object, the water from the crags and mossy wilds of Kirkstone tumbling down a fine fall through a deep mountain glen, choked with trees, and then running among loose rocks and overhanging foliage until at last it joins the Rothay. The water of "The Force" takes three leaps, being divided by projecting rocks, but altogether making seventy feet in height. Among many other rare plants and ferns luxuriating here may be found the *Hymenophyllum Wilsoni*. The adventurous will enjoy the falls more by descending from the bank to the stream, and, although there may not be much water, it looks better, being clearer, than when, after heavy rains, the river is swollen and the water muddy. Numerous excursions may be made from Ambleside, such as to Rydal Falls, the lakes of Rydal and Grasmere, the pass of Kirkstone, Wansfell, Loughrigg Fell, Fairfield, and Troutbeck. Steamboats ply regularly from Ambleside to the rest of the stations on the lake, timing with the trains at Lake Side Station, for Ulverston *en route* for Furness Abbey. On leaving Ambleside, on the left we notice Wansfell Holm, and afterwards, on the same side, Dove's Nest, the house inhabited by the talented Mrs. Hemans for one summer. Being fairly afloat, we are at liberty to indulge in those delightful visions which have been described to us as ever-varying and inexhaustible, and we cannot fail to be satisfied that the scene of loveliness before us has not been over-rated. We can experience in a very insignificant degree the feelings which prompted those earnest pourtrayers of the beautiful in nature, in poetry and prose—Wordsworth, Professor Wilson (Christopher

North), Southey, Mrs. Hemans, and Hartley Coleridge—to write so lovingly of this “gem of purest ray serene.” Towards the north, surrounding the head of the lake are the lofty mountains beyond Ambleside, “the stern and bleak companions of the mist and cloud,” disposed with uncommon grandeur of outline and magnificence of colour. Along the western shore as far as High Wray, a range of rocky fells rises over the water, covered here and there with dwarfish shrubs of birch, oak, hazel, and pine, “and patches bright of bracken green and heather black.” Altogether the character of the scenery about that portion of the lake above the Ferry is more expansive, and approaches more to stateliness and graceful beauty, than the lower part. Windermere is nearly eleven miles in length, one mile in breadth, and upwards of 240 feet in depth. It is situated between the counties of Lancaster and Westmorland, the greater part of its margin being in the former. Several streams flow into it from different directions, but the principal are the Brathay and Rothay, the streamlets from Esthwaite Water, Blelham Tarn, and Troutbeck; while the chief outlet is the Leven, issuing from the foot, near Newby bridge. Although the roads along each side of the lake are very pleasant and good, still greater advantages are to be derived from a trip by the steamboat, particularly if time be precious to the visitor.

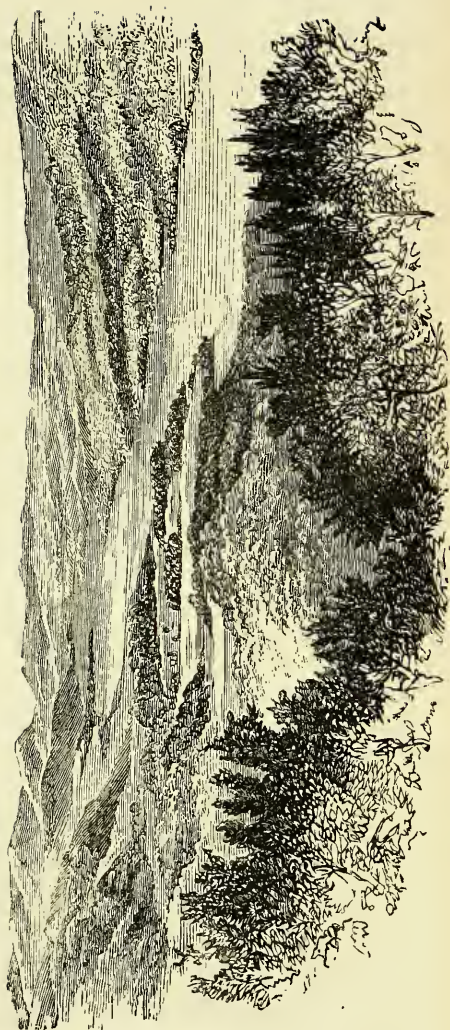
Low-wood inn, separated from the margin of the lake by the high-road, is soon reached: it is very pleasantly situated, and is a good point to select, especially for those who wish to avoid the bustle and excitement of the larger stations on the lake. It is a favourite place of sojourn of Earl Russell. On the opposite shore is Wray Castle, a splendid mansion built in the Perpendicular style, and one of the most enviable dwellings in the region of the lakes, both from its interior beauty and the views it commands.

About one mile below Low-wood we pass Eccleirigg, with its pretty pier, afterwards the woods of Calgarth Hall, once the residence of the late celebrated Bishop Watson (Llandaff), and on the other shore High Wray. Below Calgarth we see the Priory, one of the hand-

somest residences in the lake district. Rayrigg House, which stands near the water's edge, was for several years the summer residence of the celebrated William Wilberforce. We are now gliding by the fine woods of Rayrigg, and the woods around Elleray, once the home of the late Professor Wilson, embowering several gentlemen's seats, recently erected in pretty situations. High above on the hill side is the village of Birdthwaite. After steaming by the little island of Rough Holme, we enter

BOWNESS,

Which is picturesquely situated upon the edge of a little bay, and has all the appearance of a busy miniature port. The houses, with many-coloured walls, and irregular roofs, are placed upon various points and eminences, and environed by trees, above which are seen swelling the summits of the hills behind. Belsfield, the seat of H. W. Schneider, Esq., occupies a commanding site, and being built amid beautifully wooded and sloping grounds, forms a conspicuous object. The church, dedicated to St. Martin, is an ancient edifice, with a square tower, and a large curiously painted chancel window, the glass of which is supposed to have belonged to Furness Abbey. Richard Watson, bishop of Llandaff, was buried here, and a brief inscription upon a small plate records his name, age, and death. The school is an elegant structure, built through the liberality of the late Mr. Bolton, of Storrs. The hotels are excellent, commodious, and comfortable, and every facility for excursions may be obtained. Bowness is six miles from Ambleside, eight miles from Kendal, and two from Birthwaite or Windermere, the nearest railway terminus. After leaving Bowness, and before we approach the Ferry, we come in sight of Belle Isle, upon which is erected a circular mansion, 54 feet in diameter. The island is rather more than a mile in circumference, and contains upwards of 30 acres; it possesses some pretty walks, shaded by fine old trees, and was the scene of severe conflicts during the Civil War. Miss Agnes Strickland, in one of her descriptive novels, introduces numerous references to this spot.



WINDERMERE LAKE, FROM NEAR NEWBY BRIDGE.

Smaller islands cluster near Belle Isle, upon which the lily of the valley luxuriates. The Ferry Hotel stands entirely alone, and is conspicuous at a great distance. Here the lake narrows, and a ferry is established across it, being a continuation of the road from Kendal to Hawkshead. Behind the house a station is erected on a rocky eminence, commanding views of the lake throughout the whole extent—

“ With promontory, creek, and bay,
And islands that, empurpled bright,
Float amid the liveliest light,
And mountains, that like giants stand,
To sentinel enchanted land.”

Winding round the hotel, the waters of the lake here form a pretty secluded creek, still and deep, overlooked and shaded by a rocky pyramid, which shoots up abruptly from the water's edge, its steep sides being covered to the topmost pinnacle with trees of various hues. This little inlet is cut off from the lake by a small wooded island, and looks

“ So wondrous wild, the whole might seem
The scenery of a fairy dream.”

A little below the Ferry points, and almost on the middle line, Berkshire Island is passed, afterwards two other islands, Grass Holme and Ling Holme, on the western margin, while on the opposite point may be observed Storrs Hall, a fine mansion seated amongst splendid grounds extending to the edge of the lake. Another of the numerous islands called Silver Holme comes into view, and on the same side Graythwaite, then The Landing, with the hills of Finsthwaite and Rusland in the back-ground. On the other side the lake is bounded by the range of hills called Cartmel Fell, at the foot of which stands Town Head, and further on Fell Foot, the dark form of Gummern How towering above them. Here we arrive at the foot of the “English Zurich,” and land at the

LAKE SIDE

Station of the Furness Railway, where the train is waiting for the arrival of the boat. The station, with

its novel style of building, and the new pier, have quite altered the appearance of this part of the lake, but provide better accommodation than formerly existed. The line follows the side of the narrowing lake and river Leven, along the richly-wooded banks of which the train moves slowly at starting, as if to recompense the tourist for invading this charming spot, by giving him time to admire the clear water and the grassy slopes. Conveyances meet the trains and boats from Grange and Newby Bridge.

Newby Bridge is now passed, where the comfortable and substantial-looking Swan Inn stands alongside the bridge and close by the bank of the Leven. The accommodation at this hotel is excellent—in fact it is justly celebrated for its liberal commissariat, and for the kindly reception afforded to visitors. The situation is full of beauty and quiet, and possesses the attraction of delightful walks in the neighbourhood, with opportunities for boating and fishing, so that a few days may be spent here very agreeably. There is a fine hill behind the house, rising rather abruptly, upon which is erected a square tower in commemoration of the great naval victories of this country. The distance from the hotel is about a mile, and, although the path is somewhat steep and rugged, the goal once reached gives ample remuneration for the toil. To the north, stretches the full length of Windermere, its banks dotted with villas whose grounds slope to the water's edge; to the east, Cartmell Fell; on the south, the Leven may be traced, winding along till it is lost in Morecambe bay; and on the west, the "cloud-capped" mountains of Coniston. The succession of views almost beggars description, for at every turn some fresh beauty of wood, rock, or water, is seen; hills, bleak and barren, and rocks, bare and steep, alternate with others which are enlivened by the various tints of moss, heath, or shrubs; while craggy valleys and wooded heights succeed each other in one vast panorama, dazzling in brightness and multitude of form and feature.

The journey from Newby Bridge to Ulverston used to be performed by coach in summer, but this convey-

ance has given way to the branch line of railway from Ulverston. Following the course of the river for a mile, beyond which a delightfully secluded road is only separated from it by occasional clumps of trees, we have a good view of the stream as its progress is constantly impeded by fragments of rock, over which it dashes, making innumerable falls, and again subsides into a rippling current; while on each side of the vale the fells rise abruptly to a considerable altitude, now and then jutting out in rugged crags, but more frequently softened and rendered beautiful by the variety of the foliage with which the steep acclivities are clothed. For the most part the lower slopes are overgrown with shrubs and brushwood, backed by the tall spires of the firs, which contrast with the grey rocks shooting up here and there in fantastic forms. Then we reach the village of Backbarrow, where are large cotton mills, with the residence and grounds of the owner, and we hear the deep boom of machinery and the noise of village life

“Through sounds of foaming waterfalls.”

A short distance further and we pass one of the charcoal iron furnaces of Harrison, Ainslie & Co., a specialty in the manufacture of iron. After this, continuing along the side of a wooded height, we reach

HAVERTHWAITE

(Three miles from Lake Side, and twelve miles and a half from Furness Abbey).

On the other side of the valley are the hills of Bigland, and those of Haverthwaite immediately above us. The latter, more precipitous in form, are covered with a dense tangle of underwood, from the midst of which rise in profusion trees of different kinds—the elegant mountain ash, the stately pine, the gnarled oak, the delicate birch, the sombre yew and Scotch fir, mingling their branches in a density of luxuriant foliage. After leaving the station and emerging from the tunnel we catch a glimpse of the pretty little church and parsonage of Haverthwaite, sheltered by trees, and situated in the most delightfully sequestered spot it is possible

to imagine, presenting of themselves a little rural picture, while their position commands a splendid view of Leven's vale.

The house and grounds of Hollow Oak are espied on the right as the train comes out of the cutting. The extensive powder manufactory of the Lowwood Co. stands below on the left and over the river, the Swiss-like appearance of the clock tower adding a picturesque quality to the already attractive scene. In a few minutes we are crossing the Haverthwaite mosses. To the right is a vast extent of "peat bog," composed of the decayed vegetable matter perhaps of centuries. A large accumulation of it has taken place, and moisture being held in absorption, immense compact masses have gradually formed, which have in time assumed a black colour. In some instances the bog is formed almost entirely of mosses, sometimes of mosses mixed with the remains of other plants. The peat is cut or "graved," and arranged in stacks to dry, when it is supplied to the surrounding neighbourhood, the inhabitants using it extensively as an article of fuel; but since the facilities for the transit of coal have increased, peat has not been in such great demand as formerly. Machinery has been erected for compressing the peat, to be used in the charcoal furnaces of Newland and Backbarrow.

We are hurrying past Roudsey Wood, famous for the lily of the valley, which grows in luxuriant profusion, and attracts numbers of visitors during the flowering season, and are soon upon the embankment over the sands of the estuary of the Leven, where we see the woods of Underfield terminate in Leckbarrow Point, the abrupt projecting crag with the road at its base, where the river Crake, flowing from Coniston Lake, joins the Leven. At the head of the meadow beyond, Penny Bridge Hall may be seen, and before us lies

GREENODD

(Six miles from Lake Side, and nine miles and a half from
Furness Abbey),

Into which station we are brought after crossing an iron bridge less ornamental than useful. This village




GREENODD.



once enjoyed a considerable shipping trade, but its wharves are now almost deserted, and its warehouses empty; yet the bustle and activity caused by the railway traffic has amply compensated for the loss of coaches and coasters. It is situated at the entrance to the valley of the Crake, the scenery of which is highly interesting, at first characterised more by sylvan and fertile beauty than by any features of a bold and striking character, with one or two exceptions, where hills of varied form and elevation are adorned with picturesque groups of trees and plantations, amongst which a few jutting crags are now and then seen.

Advancing, the country spreads out into ample meadows, through which the Crake pursues its sinuous course, interrupted occasionally by the different manufactories—then, once more free, glides along hastily on its way to the bay. The scenery assumes a wilder tone as the foot of Coniston Lake is approached, the river winding more irregularly, forming little creeks where flourish all sorts of aquatic plants, or splashing over the fragments of moss-grown rock, or eddying in ripples round islets of sedge and rushes that accidentally intercept its course. The foot of Coniston Lake is easily reached from this place, being only a walk of four or five miles.

The line from Greenodd to Ulverston skirts the estuary of the Leven for a short distance, and, passing Plumpton mosses, joins the main line of the Furness Railway near Plumpton Hall, once the property of Mr. Morritt, of Sir Walter Scott's "Rokeby;" and in full view of the hills of Hoad and Outrake, the former surmounted by the monument erected in honour of Sir John Barrow, we reach the town of Ulverston.



FROM CONISTON.

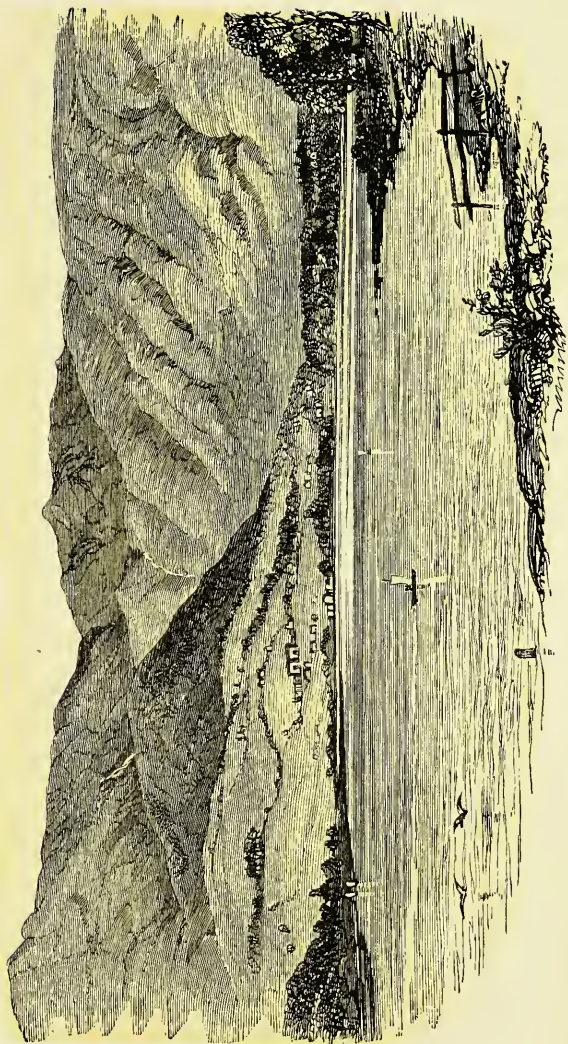
"Ye crags and peaks, I'm with you once again !

* * * * * *

Again !—O, sacred forms, how proud you look !
 How high ye lift your heads into the sky !
 How huge you are ! how mighty and how free !
 Ye are the things that tower, that shine—whose smile
 Makes glad—whose frown is terrible—whose forms,
 Robed or unrobed, do all the impress wear
 Of awe divine."—KNOWLES.

COACHES from Ambleside bring tourists and visitors to Coniston, which, besides forming a favourite station from whence to make excursions to the neighbouring vales of Tilberthwaite, Yewdale, and Langdale, to ascend the Old Man Mountain, and explore the copper mines, is a very pleasant place for a summer sojourn. There are some good inns : the Waterhead Hotel, which had the honour of accommodating, a few years ago, the late Queen Marie Amelie of the French, and *suite* ; the Crown Inn, and the Black Bull, the last entertaining, on two occasions, De Quincey, "The English Opium Eater." Tennyson, the poet-laureate, and Gerald Massey have both resided here. The church is an old building, plain and unpretending. Coniston "Old Man" * is one of the most conspicuous mountains in the Lake District, and is remarkable for its rugged outline and bold aspect, having the most prominent peak and the greatest altitude of any of the Coniston range, being 2580 feet above the level of the sea. It contains valuable mines of copper, as well as quarries of fine slate. The summit of the Old Man commands a series of views from their extent and diversity immensely gratifying to the eye, and well worth the toil of the ascent. Besides comprehending the immediate district of Furness and

* Derived from the British words *ald*, a hill, *maen*, a stone ; a block of stone, a stony hill.



CONISTON LAKE.

Cartmel, Morecambe Bay, South Cumberland, and the Westmorland mountains, it is said that even Snowdon and the Isle of Man may be observed on a clear day by following the direction of the Duddon towards the far horizon. Coniston Lake, or Thurston Water, as it is also called, is between six and seven miles long, little more than three-quarters of a mile in width, and the greatest depth about forty fathoms. Its waters were once celebrated for yielding the finest char, as well as pike and trout; but of late years, owing, it is said, to the influx of the water from the copper mines, they have disappeared. The railway station is on the side of a hill above the village, looking down upon it and the waters of the bright lake, which sparkle in the sunshine. The upper end of the lake is enclosed by magnificent mountains, "cragged and stern, and earthquake-tossed," and upon its banks sloping down to the water's edge are fine pleasure-grounds and woods, studded with villas, which make a very pretty effect. Conspicuous amongst them is Coniston Old Hall, at present a farm-house, but once a seat of the Le Flemings. It has been the subject of an historical tale, illustrative of the Jacobites and the Revolution of 1688.

A pretty little screw steam yacht, "The Gondola," plies on the lake in the season, in connection with the Furness Railway at Coniston.

As the train whirls along from Coniston, a grand panoramic scene lies before the traveller, into which enter all the beauties of fell, rock, wood, and water, with their charming and innumerable varieties, and he is entranced with the colossal firmness of the mighty hills, the sublimity of the crags and slopes, and "the poetry which breathes from their streams, dells, and airy heights," as with a delightful vision. We soon reach the station at

TORVER

(Two miles and a half from Coniston, and sixteen miles and a half from Furness Abbey).

Torver is a small village from which many persons prefer to make the ascent of the Old Man. Here, it is

said, stood an old church, consecrated by Archbishop Cranmer, on the site of the present building.

Leaving this place we speed along down a gradient over a rough tract of country, mostly known as "fell" land, with here and there a homestead, where some hardy son of toil resides and occupies himself with tilling his little enclosure and tending the mountain sheep. On these unfrequented wilds are many traces of the ancient Celt, whose rude stone walls and circumvallations, with piles of stones scattered about in endless confusion, afford more lasting indications of the earlier possessors of the soil than any of the elaborate and pompous erections in other places of following races. The eye may rest perhaps

" On many a cairn's grey pyramid
Where urns of mighty chiefs lie hid."

To the antiquarian, the neighbourhood offers endless employment; and the student of nature, who sees beauty everywhere, will find in this seemingly out-of-the-way place, much that is pleasing, interesting, and instructive. It is in such haunts as these that the initiated

" Find tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything."

We next arrive at

WOODLAND

(Six miles from Coniston, and thirteen miles from Furness Abbey).

A few minutes more and we are hurrying on down the valley, and over a viaduct, passing Broughton Tower, an ancient fabric, before arriving at

BROUGHTON

(Nine miles from Coniston, and ten miles from Furness Abbey).

This is a small market-town situated about three-quarters of a mile from the river Duddon, on a gentle eminence. In the centre of the town is the market square, consisting of neat and well-built houses, and in which stands a stone obelisk. There are an old church,

two grammar schools, and two or three good inns, where horses and conveyances may be hired. From this point strangers usually visit Black Combe, a hill on the extremity of the Cumberland shore, the summit of which is about six miles distant. At Swineside, three miles from Broughton, under the side of Black Combe, is a Druidical temple, or circle of huge upright stones, one of the most perfect in the north of England.

Another favourite excursion may be made from here up the sequestered and beautiful vale of the Duddon to Seathwaite.

The praises of the Duddon have been sung by Wordsworth, and its scenery will amply recompense those who wander along its course. At the entrance may be seen Duddon Hall, delightfully situated, with its Grecian temple, amid fine lawns and extensive grounds, surrounded by woods, and sheltered by thickly foliaged branches of trees, which rise up gradually until they crown luxuriantly the opposite heights.

Leaving Broughton, we pass by cultivated fields and quickly reach

FOXFIELD

(Ten miles from Coniston, and nine miles from Furness Abbey).

At this place there is a junction with the Whitehaven and Furness Railways, and passengers change for places on the West Cumberland line. We now proceed, after a short delay, along a tract of peat-bog and mossy land, and the next station we come to is that of

KIRKBY

(Twelve miles and a quarter from Coniston, and six miles and three quarters from Furness Abbey).

Here we observe, high on the hill-side, the slate quarries, the property of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, which are connected by an incline railway with the main line. These quarries extend for above a mile—the rubbish hills, or “batteries,” as they are technically termed, rising tier above tier to a great height—and afford employment to about three hundred men.

Close by is an ancient residence, called the Old Hall, where many generations of the Kirkbys of Kirkby

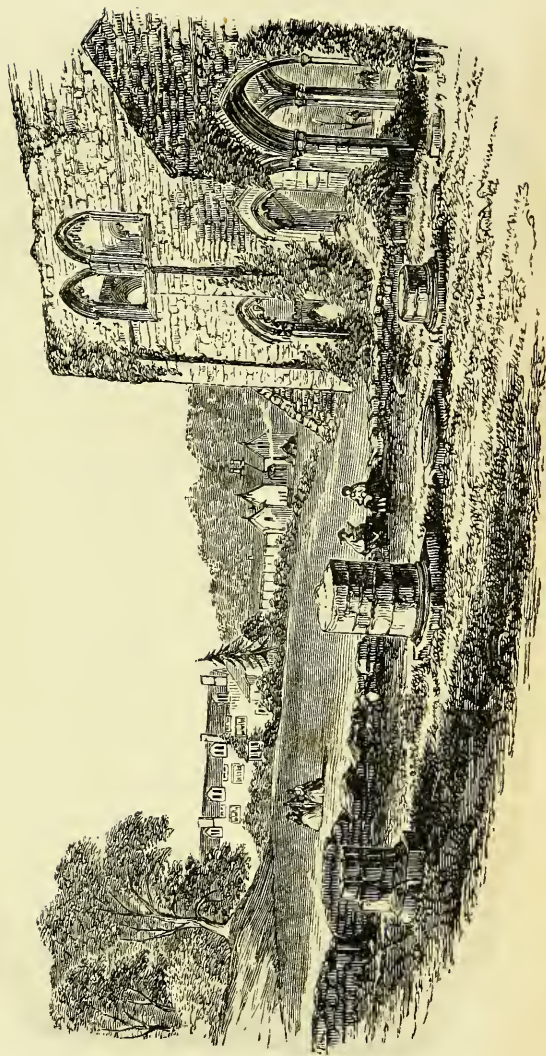
dwelt. In front of the house formerly stood an old stone cross, which was destroyed by order of Archbishop Sandys. This family was greatly reduced through adhesion to the royalist cause in the Parliamentary war. For several miles we now run along the edge of the Duddon estuary, and some of "Nature's largest print behold," in the shape of the Cumberland mountains, from Black Combe to Coniston, including the rugged top of Scawfell.

"God's vast creatures, there they stand,
Looking over sea and land."

At the extreme point of the opposite shore may be descried the Hodbarrow iron mines, where a rich bed of hæmatite has been discovered, causing a large influx of vessels to the Duddon to carry away the valuable mineral. On the left we pass the village of Ireleth, with its pretty little church, recently erected in the Early-English style. Ireleth was evidently an ancient British settlement, for during the excavations for the waterworks reservoirs, a few years ago, the workmen discovered eight vessels of half-baked clay, containing human bones, and arranged in a straight line N.E. and S.W., and one yard apart, unquestionably belonging to a very early age, and doubtless cinerary urns of an aboriginal people.

After remaining so long a quiet and almost insignificant place, Ireleth promises to occupy a situation of some consideration, from being called upon to take an active part in the staple trade of the country. Blast furnaces have been erected near its coast, at Askham, by the Furness Iron and Steel Co.; we may therefore soon expect to see this village share in those improvements which the remarkable unfolding of the mineral treasures in the limestone formation has bestowed upon the district generally.

We now glide by, on the right, first "Greenscar" mines and afterwards "Park" mines, the rocks and earth around being tinged with the rich ferruginous deposit, and we soon find ourselves entering the far-famed Vale of the Deadly Night-shade, and in sight of the time-honoured and crumbling walls of Furness Abbey.



FURNESS ABBEY.

FURNESS ABBEY.

“ Down ! down they come—a fearful fall—
Arch, and pillar, and roof-tree, and all,
Stained pane, and sculptured stone,
There they lie on the greensward strawn—
Mouldering walls remain alone ! ”

AMONG the ruins of monastic establishments spread throughout the land, there are few more imposing in their proportions, charming in their solitude, or affecting in their decay, than what remains to us of that once noble ecclesiastical edifice, the Abbey of St. Mary of Furness.

We cannot look upon the stateliness of the building, with its chaste and beautiful columns, symmetrical arches, quaint carvings, and elegant tracery, without feeling intense admiration for the spirit which prompted the hearts of our ancestors to devise, and their hands to execute, such great and gorgeous temples devoted to the worship of the Creator ; and it is sad to reflect that here, upon the now damp and moss-grown floor, worshippers have knelt, generation after generation,—the earnest, the careless, and the indifferent,—dreaming not that in a few centuries the spacious and lofty edifice they were so proud of supporting would stand as a mere shell, to mark the spot where it once flourished in all its circumstance and splendour. It is only in this country that we see these monuments of the piety of mediæval times in so ruinous a condition. How much it is to be regretted that the reaction in religious sentiment at the period of the dissolution of monasteries, and subsequently, was so violent that these noble structures should have suffered demolition at the hands of cold, irreligious neglect, rapacity, or ignorant fury,—that in the general crash “ Reformers ” were not content with uprooting and weeding out forms and ceremonies and other alleged abuses, but

refused to preserve to succeeding ages the magnificent and apparently indestructible piles for future worship; thus plunging the nation into an abyss of barbaric architecture, which produced the "hideous painted and whitewashed parallelograms" that have been raised up and called churches in later times. Let us hope for better things, now that in these days, there has been such a revival of the Gothic architecture of the middle ages in the erection and restoration of sacred edifices. Had it not been for the lamentable destruction of monastic and ecclesiastical buildings which then took place, England could this day have boasted as fine old churches as those of Continental countries, coeval with our own now in ruins, but carefully kept, and restored where threatened by the decay of centuries. It may be argued by those who deprecate the use of all the accessories of beautiful architecture, internal decoration, and impressive music in public worship, that the Reformation would never have succeeded in weaning the people from superstitious reverence for old associations and impressive ceremonies without this sweeping destruction; and yet we know that "the idol may be shattered in the dust, but the infatuation of the worshipper shall outlive his faith."

We shall proceed at once to inspect the remains of this celebrated abbey, the very stones of which recall the glories of its palmy days.

Upon the site of the Manor House there now stands a substantial and well-appointed hotel, and on the walls of several rooms are some striking bas-reliefs sculptured in marble, illustrating various occurrences in scripture history, with appropriate Latin inscriptions. In the coffee-room there is a very curious representation of Adam and Eve in Paradise.

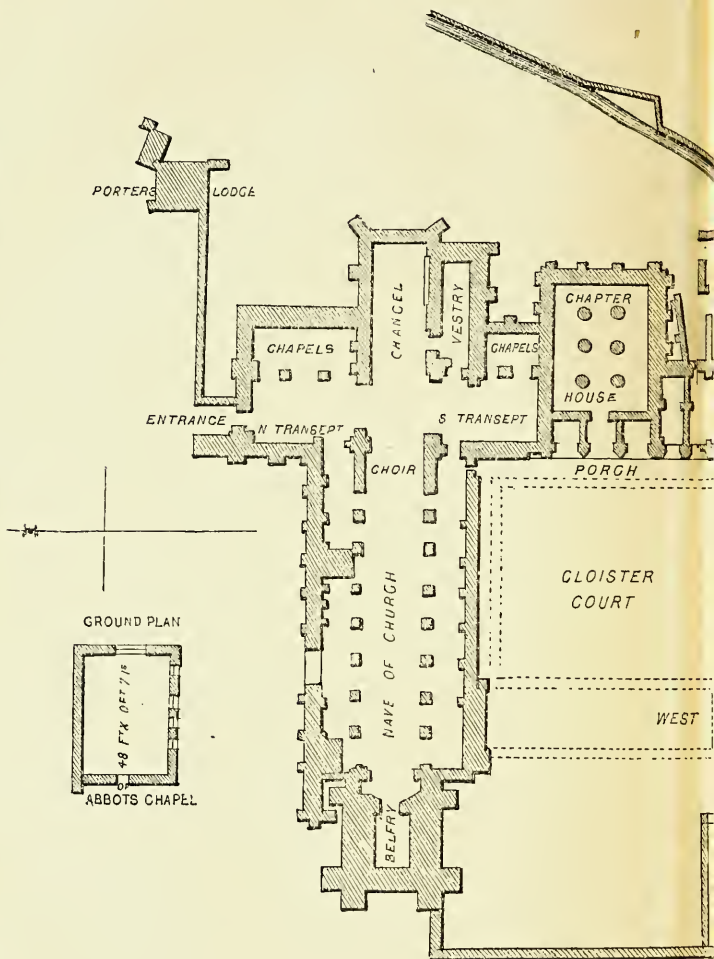
On leaving the platform of the railway station, a few paces bring us to

The Abbot's Private Chapel,

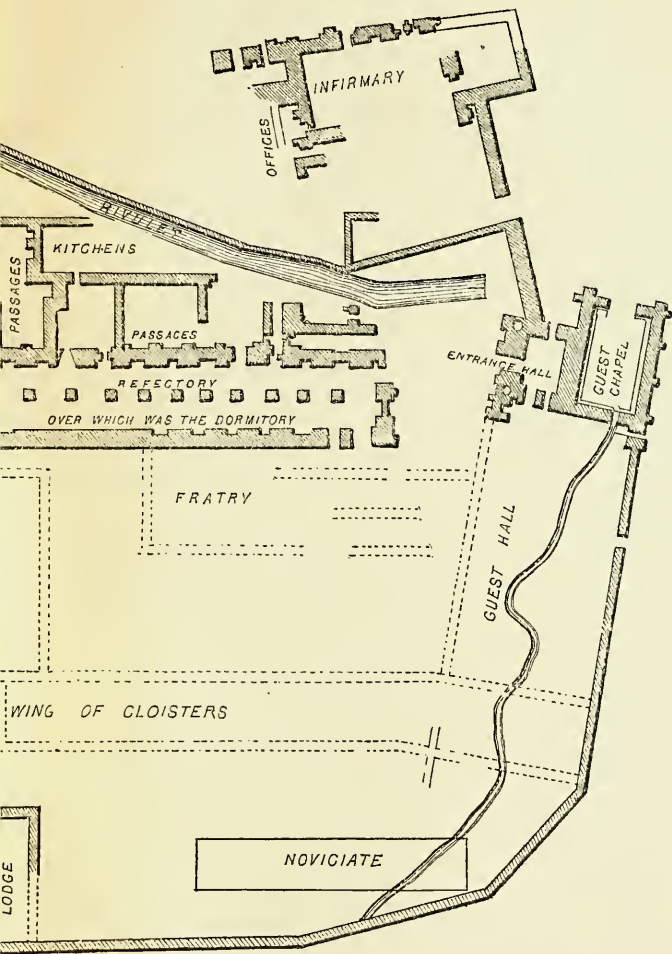
48 feet long by 20 feet wide, near which are two Gothic arches, one large and the other small, which



GROUND PLAN OF



FURNESS ABBEY.



mark the entrance of the road from Dalton. These arches are modern, and were built by the late Lord George Cavendish. Near to this place is the site of the porter's lodge and ancient gateway, and not long ago might be noticed the door-step, worn almost away by the feet of pilgrims and mendicants visiting the abbey in days of yore.

Over the doorway of this chapel will be seen a pretty niche, with a trefoil head, for a statue, and inside, in the south wall, a side entrance and three sedilia, or seats, for the officiating priests, with piscina and ambry. If the visitor now pursue the road past the hotel, he will come to a turnstile in full view of the church, and will follow the footpath leading directly towards it, through the grounds in front of the hotel, which are said to have been designed by the late Sir J. Paxton, M.P. The semi-circular doorway, which here forms the principal entrance, opens into the north transept, and is placed, with strange want of taste, on one side of the window above it. During recent excavations, the basement mouldings have been cleared of the turf and earth which had accumulated about them, and they look quite fresh, as if only recently cut.

The Church

Is built in the form of a cross, as was the prevailing custom, possessing various subdivisions, and from the portions of the walls and the foundations still visible, a very accurate idea of the proportions and limits of the building can be easily ascertained by the observer.

If the eye be cast along the whole area of the church, which measures 300 feet in length, and 65 feet in breadth, some notion of the enormous dimensions of this splendid fabric will enter the mind, and excite the deepest wonder and admiration at the grandeur of the design, once so beautifully perfect—now

“Sublime in ruin, grand in woe.”

The Western Tower or Belfry

Is of a later date than the rest of the work, belonging apparently to the latter part of the fourteenth or the early portion of the fifteenth century, when the Perpendicular style was usurping the place of the beautiful and chaste Decorated. The walls are of great strength, being 11 feet in thickness and further strengthened with six-staged buttresses, 8 feet broad, projecting $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the wall, the lower stages ornamented with canopied niche and pedestal. It is conjectured that this tower was of considerable height, one writer suggesting that it was never finished. The stonework composing a mass which fell from the top was so strongly cemented together, that the workmen employed to remove it were compelled to blast it with powder.

The inside of the tower measures 24 feet by 19 feet, and the splendid west window, of the Perpendicular style, with its splays or jambs decorated with the leaf-like ornament of that period, was 35 feet high and $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide. The staircase formed in the wall is in a good state of preservation, and the view from the top well repays the ascent. At the north-west corner there was once an entrance to the church, and on the south-west is a cavity in the wall, supposed by Mr. Beck to have been a doorway leading from the western wing of the cloisters, afterwards walled up, but which appears to have been an arched canopy for a recumbent monumental effigy.

We have now before us the nave and aisles, with their grass-covered floor; the former was separated from the latter by two rows of pier-arches, eight in each, alternately circular and clustered. The aisles were groined and vaulted in stone, while the roof of the nave was composed of wood. The oblique moulding on the transept walls marks the slope of the roof of the aisles, which was 26 feet in height to the top of the vaulting. In the north aisle there is a platform, where no doubt stood a private altar.

The north wall was 4 feet thick, and perforated

by nine semicircular windows, separated externally by buttresses.

The Transept,

Dividing the chancel from the body of the church, measures 129 feet by 28 feet, the walls composing it being from 4 to 6 feet thick, and of their original height. This part of the church was intersected by the choir, and the bases of its screens may be seen. Near the pulpit, at the junction of the north aisle and middle of transept, are some beautifully sculptured panels, which, when first discovered, were adorned with gold. The walls of the north transept and side chapels present numerous indications where alterations have taken place. The chapels were those of the Lancasters, barons of Kendal, who were great benefactors to the Abbey, and contained the remains of several of the family. In

The North Transept

Was a splendid window, 30 feet high, and $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, and in the south wall of the transept another of less magnitude, $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 12 feet, both showing the substitution of the Perpendicular style for that immediately preceding it.

Over the centre was erected the lantern tower, having windows towards the four cardinal points, and this was supported by four noble arches resting upon lofty pillars, only one of them remaining (the eastern), the height of which from the floor to the under side of the apex is $52\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

The Chancel

Extends 60 feet eastward, and 28 feet in breadth, its walls being 5 feet thick and 60 feet in height. It was once lighted by four elegant windows—two in the northern wall are each 8 feet 4 inches wide, and five times that in height, the others being smaller—besides them magnificent east window, which, when perfect, was 47 feet in height and $23\frac{1}{2}$ feet in breadth. The floor appears to have been laid with encaustic tiles.

The walls are supported outside by two square buttresses which project 6 feet from the wall, and diminish

by stages. High above the ground are overhanging corbels and grotesquely carved heads, whose quaintness, however, is not without symbolic meaning.

The external mouldings of the great chancel window remain, and are supported on each side by a crowned head, supposed to represent Stephen the founder, and Maud his wife. As we gaze upon the great blank in the wall, it is difficult for the imagination to conceive the effect produced by this large and magnificent window when in the splendour of its full proportions, for there is now scarcely any division remaining of those numerous compartments, ramifying into rich tracery, through which, from the highest to the lowest pane, came a flood of tinted and mellowed light, a very "shower of beauty" falling over all.

"A mighty window, hollow in the centre,
Shorn of its glass of thousand colourings,
Through which the deepened glories once could enter,
Streaming from off the sun like seraph's wings,
Now yawns all desolate : now loud, now fainter,
The gale sweeps through its fretwork, and oft sings
The owl his anthem, where the silenced choir
Lie with their hallelujahs quenched like fire."

Six feet from the wall, $12\frac{1}{2}$ feet long by 4 feet broad, is the basement of the platform upon which stood the high altar. In the south wall of the chancel are placed the

Sedilia,

Occupied during high mass by the priest celebrant and his attendant deacons. The seats are raised one step above the floor, are profusely ornamented with crockets, finials, and rich canopies delicately groined, and consist of five larger and two smaller niches, separated by screens—four being seats for those who conducted the services of the church ; the large one, the basin or piscina where the priest rinsed the chalice after the purifications, with a recess a little above for a lamp ; and the two side niches, it is thought, were for the napkins used after ablution.

This marvel of art in masonry is executed in the most exquisite Decorated style, and when painted and gilded, as was the custom in those days when the

Gothic had reached a high pitch of perfection, must have looked strikingly beautiful.

The ambries or lockers—square openings in the wall on each side of the sedilia—were receptacles for the vessels of the altar, the oil stock for extreme unction, and perhaps also for the reservation of the sacred elements.

Before proceeding to view the other parts of this vast fabric, a glance at the walls from this situation will show us that since the period of the foundation of the abbey material alterations of the original building have undoubtedly taken place, but not in such a degree as to conceal or injure the antique expression of the earlier epochs. About the latter part of the fourteenth and beginning of the fifteenth centuries, the monks of Furness appear to have been infected with the general spirit of change in architecture which was then diffused through monastic societies, and accordingly took down and rebuilt, or embellished and improved, various parts of their edifice, substituting, in many cases, the Perpendicular for the beautiful light and graceful style of the Early-English and Decorated, which before prevailed.

It is interesting and instructive to trace these various and gradual transitions from the Early-English down to the Perpendicular productions—a very characteristic progression of improvement, where with consummate art we see all the essentials of the former preserved, while a striking air of novelty is superadded, and the whole becomes markedly richer, airier, statelier, and yet more delicate, without any diminution of grandeur and strength.

So great was the rage for alterations at this time that it was found necessary to prohibit them by a decree of Council held in London.

Monuments, Tombs, etc.

On the north-west side of the vale, above the church, was a cemetery with a chapel, all traces of which have now disappeared. Another burial ground immediately within the strait enclosure, and opposite the eastern

end of the church, was set apart for privileged individuals, benefactors, and others ; but most of the tombstones have been collected, and, with the sculptured figures, are now placed on the floor of the chancel, after lying about in various directions for many years.

The monumental effigies are those of members of the family of Le Fleming, lords of Aldingham ; or Lancaster, barons of Kendal, the crusader in the centre being most probably the third William de Lancaster, and eighth baron of Kendal, who was a large donor to the abbey. He died in the year 1246.

“ The knights are dust,
Their swords are rust,
Their souls are with the saints, I trust.”

The two others in limestone, their helmets being in profile, and closed, according to the laws of heraldry, clearly represent esquires of the early part of the thirteenth century (Henry III.) They are clothed in quilted or padded armour, with triangular shields, and heavy barrel-shaped helmets, each with an aperture for sight cut in the transverse bar of a cross, covering the whole head and resting upon the shoulders. In another part of the ruins, in wooden boxes, are the figures of a knight in the armour of the thirteenth century, supposed to be Reginald, King of Man, slain in battle in the year 1228, and a female in the costume of the fourteenth century. From the full exposed face, the male figure indicates a knight, the armour consisting of chain-mail, covered with a surcoat unfortunately without armorial bearings, knee-pieces of iron plate, and a triangular shield. The hand is shown in the act of drawing the sword, as was the custom when a man died in battle. There is also a mutilated statue of a deacon in his surplice, the stole being represented as worn over the left shoulder and across the breast, according to the ancient custom of the diaconate. The earliest Norman monuments consist merely of a stone coffin with the lid shaped in a ridge or *en dos d'âne*. The coffins were sunk on a level with the ground, in the interments of distinguished people, so that the lid rose above the pavement. They were frequently plain,

or sculptured only with a cross, but afterwards they were raised higher above ground, and architectural decorations introduced.

One or two only of the ridged sepulchral stones exist, and they are clearly the oldest. The proper stone coffin is formed of a single stone; it is rather higher at the top than at the base, and in width tapers also from head to foot. The interior excavation is adapted to receive the body, with a separate round hollow to fit the head. An example of this kind is seen at the lodge of the strait enclosure. Most of the coffin lids are of the thirteenth century, and consist of slabs, either bearing an incised floriated cross, or a cross in low relief, with the steps or mound at the base intended to represent Mount Calvary, and technically called "The Calvary." Some of the monuments bear inscriptions, which are, however, almost illegible, though several have been deciphered: among these the following may be mentioned:—*Domina: Xtina: Secunda; Adam de Griholm; Rogerus de Hoylandia;—Jacet Godlith;—Hic jacet Ana—ti Flandren; Hic jacet Wile'us Graindeorge* (a knight):—*nus: Robertus: de:—s Furnessi: quint:*—this last, Robert de Denton, fifth abbot of Furness, ruled the monastery from 1206 to 1236.

Several of the abbots were buried beneath the floor of the chapter house.

The chancel has now been railed off, and the vestry door fitted with a gate, a protection which might have been advantageously adopted earlier.

Vestry and Chancies.

Passing through a door in the south wall, west of the stalls, we step into the vestry, where the gorgeous apparel of the priests was kept, and, advancing, find ourselves in the south transept, noting the trefoiled niches in the pillars of the side chapels, for the reception of lamps to light the monks to early devotions, the flight of steps by which they entered from the dormitory still remaining.

A door in the east end of the wall of the south aisle of the church leads to a large open space, called the

cloister-court, long used as an orchard, but recently cleared of fruit trees, the foundations of various buildings being exposed by well-conducted excavations. We now proceed to inspect the

Conventual Buildings.

The attention of the visitor is at once arrested by three richly moulded and semicircular arches, the receding sides or splays of the doors retaining still the Norman depth, and erroneously supposed by some to be of that style, but clearly of the Early-English. This is sufficiently indicated by a peculiar moulding called the dog-toothed ornament, which the visitor will observe runs round these arches. This dog-toothed moulding is never found in any style of Gothic architecture but the Early-English. Beneath one of them is a fine specimen of the plant called Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa Belladonna*), absurdly supposed by some to have been cultivated by the monks for sinister purposes, on account of its highly poisonous properties. This, as well as the Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), is indigenous to the district, and both may be found in various places, as the coasts of Methop, Cark, and Walney.

The middle archway forms an open porch with a groined and vaulted roof, the sides having been originally ornamented with neat marble columns supporting an arcade of six trefoil-headed niches. This is the entrance to the

Chapter House,

A four-sided room, $60\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $45\frac{1}{2}$ feet, the vaulted roof long fallen in, having been 24 feet in height, and supported by two rows of slender fluted columns, three in each. More decoration appears to have been lavished on this apartment and the chancel than on any other portion of the edifice. Here the Lord Abbot, paramount ruler in Furness, sat in state on high official occasions, and here the business transactions of the community were conducted. It was in this place where, in solemn conclave assembled, the last of the abbatial rulers, in the presence of the commissioners of King Henry VIII.,



CHAPTER HOUSE, FURNESS ABBEY.

signed the fatal deed of surrender, by which at one fell swoop he and his brethren were deprived of their proud position, and the accumulated wealth of four centuries. The walls have been wrought into compartments, some of which are pierced by lancet windows. The roof of this room fell in suddenly more than a century ago. Over the chapter house was the

Scriptorium,

Or library, approached from the south transept, where the brethren laboured with exemplary patience at those wonderful illuminated manuscripts which we have to thank for much of our present knowledge of the history of past ages. Returning to the cloister-court, we enter, by two smaller and less elaborate semicircular arches, the

Refectory.

This great dining hall measures 200 feet in length by 31 feet in breadth, and once possessed a vaulted roof, groined from the corbels still visible to the heavy eight-sided columns whose bases remain on the floor.

A small portion was separated at the northern end by a low narrow wall, but for what purpose has not yet been determined, unless it was for the raised dais when the abbot dined in state with the monks on great occasions; or for the sideboard, an important piece of furniture with the Norman barons and men of rank, on which were displayed the silver, pewter, and other vessels of the establishment in conspicuous array. The left or east side has doors of communication with the kitchens and various other convenient offices. The extremity of this large room had an open porch with six entrances, one of which has been walled up and converted into a fire-place.

Over the refectory was the bed-chamber or

Dormitory,

The principal entrance to it being from the cloister-court, but all traces of the staircase have completely disappeared. Sometimes the sleeping apartment was a room common to all, but more frequently divided into

small chambers, each containing a single bed, consisting of a straw mat. The bedrooms also extended over the places surrounding the cloister-court. The visitor will perceive that the windows of the dormitory were precisely similar to those over the chapter house porches, being lancet windows of the Early-English style, indicating that this portion of the abbey was built at an early period of its history.

Cloisters.

Surrounding this open space was a covered alley, with a vaulted roof projecting from the walls of the building on one side, and supported by pillars of open arches on the other, within the avenues of which were the cloisters, where the monks retired for exercise and meditation.

In the open court was a lavatory ; it also formed a sepulchre, the gravestones of which were directed to be level with the ground, lest they should occasion impediments to those who walked therein.

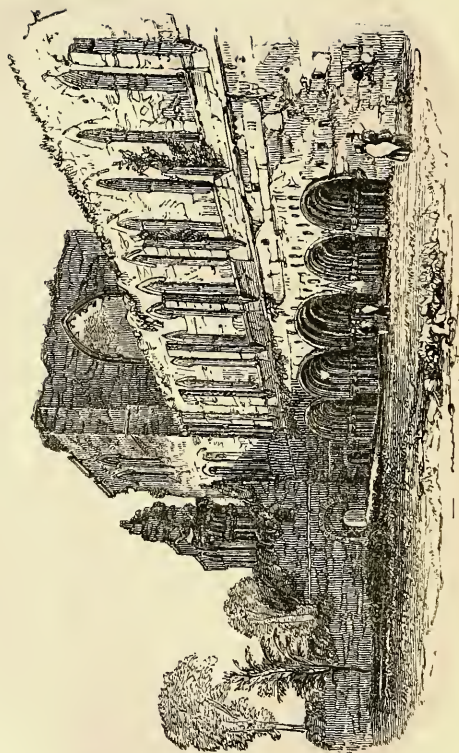
On the south of the cloister-court was the fratriy, or monks' refectory, or common eating-hall, the first mentioned one being used only on particular days, owing to an alteration which took place throughout the entire order, changing their meagre diet to one of a more liberal scale.

West of this was the noviciate, and near to the latter a porter's lodge ; the foundations of all these buildings having been lately uncovered, are now plainly seen.

Guest Hall.

Beyond the refectory, and somewhat to the south-east, there is a curious building of a mixed style of architecture, a puzzle to antiquaries, and denominated by various writers as guest hall, school-house, infirmary.

According to the general arrangement of monastic institutions, it appears to answer most to the description of a guest hall and chapel, with domestic offices and sleeping apartments overhead. The vestibule has several entrances, with staircases in the thickness of



FURNESS ABBEY, FROM CLOISTER COURT.

the wall, leading to the rooms above, and, with the adjoining chapel, is the only portion of the conventual buildings with roof entire, which is a good example of the groined vaulting of the period. The chapel is now protected by iron grating, and serves as a repository for relics found amongst the ruins during the late investigations, many curious gargoyles, corbels, mouldings, pieces of piping, and other interesting remains being there collected.

Infirmary.

As will be seen on reference to the plan, there are certain detached buildings, over the streamlet, and in close proximity to the rock, which have been supposed to consist of the infirmary, buttery, larder, bakehouse, brewhouse, and other domestic offices. Immense quantities of oyster and cockle shells, as well as burnt bones, were discovered on clearing away the rubbish adjoining these erections. The dwelling of the sacristan is thought to have been near this spot, and here were also the apartments of the secular servants. Within the precincts of the abbey were one horse and two water corn mills.

Miscellaneous Particulars.

From the remains of the secular buildings, a footpath leads to the summit of an eminence through which the railway is tunnelled, where an excellent bird's-eye view is obtained of the abbey and its domain.

Here we will suppose the visitor to rest, and meditate upon the scene which lies before him, the centre of attraction being "a noble wreck in ruinous perfection," the remnant of that system of ecclesiastical polity which, when it had almost come to its perfection, was checked and despoiled, and its ritual and revenues swept away, by the great religious convulsion that took place throughout the whole of this kingdom and the greater part of Europe.

That portion of the edifice which survives is in a remarkably good state of preservation, although it "now lies naked to the injuries of stormy weather." The stranger will have had pointed out to him the

more interesting features of the architecture—the richly-ornamented doorways, the short but beautifully-moulded pillars, the groined arches, the carved heads, the antique figures and inscriptions, the site of the high altar, and the burial-place of the barons of Kendal.

The masonry of the fabric is of superior workmanship; many of the carvings look remarkably fresh; and although unfortunately none of the windows retain their mullions, those fragments which are scattered about in heaps bear traces of fine sculpture, and show the mason's marks as plainly as if cut yesterday. The huge block of buildings stretches completely across the vale. The internal and external facings of the walls are composed of well-dressed stones, while the middle has been filled in with grout-work, cemented with mortar of rare consistency, as if the lime had been run in hot. All this provision against the attacks of time availed but little, for, as it now stands, the abbey is a memorial of lawless subversion, which has contributed more to its devastation than the "wild waste of devouring years." Numerous houses in the neighbourhood have been wholly or partially constructed of stones quarried from the monastery, and the plunder is easily detected by portions of moulding or tracery peeping out here and there.

A complete system of drainage was in use by the monks, and they availed themselves of the water supply from the never-failing rivulet; but all these minor details we must leave to the observation of the visitor, as they are too numerous for our space.

Lichens of various hues cover the stones; ivy, grass, and ferns crop out where it is possible to find foothold, and between the crevices, everywhere, protrudes the pellitory of the wall (*Parietaria officinalis*). All these plants add considerably to the picturesqueness and romantic appearance of the ruins, yet, while they adorn, they slowly, but surely, help on the work of destruction.

Much alarm has recently been felt with regard to the vibration of the heavy mineral trains passing on the railway which has invaded the peaceful retirement

of the Vale of Nightshade, and a large portion of the eastern side of the lantern tower lately fell with a great crash, fortunately without damaging, to any great extent, the adjoining walls.

From this position will be observed the boundary wall of the immediate precincts of the abbey, enclosing a space of sixty-five acres, and in the eastern side of it a door which communicated with the beacon hill—a necessary precaution against sudden alarms from restless and marauding northern neighbours. The southern portion of the park terminates in an amphitheatre, the floor of which, once the fish-ponds, has been long since filled up with *débris* from the ruins. The architect, the sculptor, and the antiquary look around them with astonishment at the loftiness of the design, as well as the consummate beauty of execution, and feel that in all this there is something truly grand, which explains how deep and pervading the influence of art must have been upon the minds of all who were connected with such structures. They perceive the stupendous nature of the work, covering so large a surface, still sublime in expression, elaborate in ornament, and in the highest degree interesting, from the manner in which it tells them, as they look upon it, how it was commenced in the twelfth century (A.D. 1127), and gradually completed in different eras ; still, notwithstanding the many changes of architectural taste visible, scarcely anywhere is the effect discordant.

But “Time hath left the deep traces of his destroying hand upon its crumbling walls; and the passing footsteps of by-gone years, as they hurried on in their march to eternity, have worn away the quaint carvings from column and shrine. Where the setting sunbeams once gilded the deep-dyed windows (rich with the figures of saints and warriors, and all the emblazoned pomp of heraldry), now waves the monumental ivy, with a solemn motion, as if it kept time to the sobbing wind, that breathes mournfully over the ruins. The deep and mellow voices of the monks, who here chaunted the holy vespers, have died away ; even the high and arched roof, which gave back the rolling echoes, is gone ; the vaulted and pillared aisles, where

the sounds were prolonged or lost, are fallen ; and the long green grass waves in the silent choir."

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

" Ages on ages slowly pass away,
And nature marks their progress by decay;
The plant that decks the mountain with its bloom
Finds in the earth, ere long, a damp dark tomb ;
And man—earth's monarch—howe'er great and brave,
Toils on, to find at last a silent grave."

THE Abbey of St. Mary of Furness was founded on the 16th of July, in the year of our Lord 1127, in the twenty-sixth year of the reign of Henry the First, and the second of the pontificate of Pope Honorius II., by Stephen, Earl of Moreton and Bologne, afterwards King of England.

The monks placed in this monastery were a filiation from that of Savigny, in Normandy, which had been founded about fifteen years before that of Furness, and fourteen years after the establishment of the Cistercian order. They came into England under the direction of Evanus, or Ewanus, and seating themselves at Tulket, near Preston, in Amounderness, July 13th, 1124, chose him to be their first abbot. The situation of Tulket not being altogether to their liking, they removed, after a residence of three years and three days, to the Vale of Nightshade, or Bekangs-gill, in Furness, whither they had been led by the sagacity and foresight of their superior, who was attracted by the solitude and retirement of this remote corner, so well adapted for a religious retreat.

The promontory of Furness—being defended on the east and south by dangerous quicksands, on the west by the Irish Sea, and on the north by hills which in those days were covered with woods, the roads leading to it being bad, and at that time but little frequented—was secure in some degree from interruption, or the incur-

sions of the restless Border people and other freebooters, who, in national quarrels, or to gratify their passion for plunder and destruction, often demolished these repositories of wealth, ease, and plenty. Such a fate often befel those abbeys and religious houses founded within reach of the Scottish frontier; but from these calamities Furness was, by the advantages of its situation, in a great measure preserved. Besides, its mineral wealth and fertile plains were eminently calculated to encourage industrial activity; its seclusion and quietude were most suitable for a life of contemplation; and, being surrounded by diversified scenery of the most lovely description, it presented powerful incentives to religious thought and feeling.

Furness Abbey was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, as were all houses of the Cistercian order.

Translation of the Foundation Charter of Stephen, Earl of Bologne.

“In the name of the Blessed Trinity, and in honour of St. Mary of Furness, I, Stephen, Earl of Bologne and Moreton, consulting God, and providing for the safety of my own soul, the soul of my wife, the Countess Matilda, the soul of my lord and uncle, Henry, King of England and Duke of Normandy, and for the souls of all the faithful, living as well as dead, in the year of our Lord 1127, of the Roman indiction the 5th and 18th of the epact:

“Considering every day the uncertainty of life, that roses and flowers of kings, emperors, and dukes, and the crowns and palms of all the great, wither and decay; and that all things, with an uninterrupted course, tend to dissolution and death:

“I therefore return, give, and grant to God and St. Mary of Furness, all Furness and Walney (Wagnea), with the privilege of hunting; with Dalton, and all my lordship in Furness (*infra* Frudernesiam), with the men and everything thereto belonging, that is, in woods and in open grounds, in land and in water; and Ulverston (*Olvestonam*), and Roger Braithwaite with all that belongs to him; my fisheries at Lancaster,

and Little Guoring (Guorenium Parvum), with all the land thereof; with sac* and soc,† tol‡ and team,§ infangenetheof,|| and everything within Furness, except the lands of Michael le Fleming; with this view and upon this condition, That in Furness an order of regular monks be by Divine permission established: which gift and offering I by supreme authority appoint to be for ever observed; and, that it may remain firm and inviolate for ever, I subscribe this charter with my hand, and confirm it with the sign of the Holy Cross.

“Signed by

“HENRY, *King of England, and Duke of Normandy.*

“THURSTAN, *Archbishop of York.*

“AUDIN, } *Bishops.*
“BOCES, }

“ROBERT, *Keeper of the Seal.*

“ROBERT, *Earl of Gloster.”*

The Monks.

While the monks resided at Tulket, and under the election of Richard de Bayeux, fifth abbot in Furness, they belonged to the order of Savigny, under the rule of St. Benedict, when, through the influence of Pope Eugenius III., in the year 1148, the whole of the order of Savigny, consisting of thirty monasteries, joined the Cistercians out of regard to St. Bernard, under whose rule the brethren of Citeaux had become very numerous and influential. So great was the reputation of St. Bernard, that before his death, and during the thirty-eight years he was abbot, he founded 160 monasteries, and in the course of fifty years from the establishment of the order it had acquired 500 abbeys. The monks

* *Saccum*.—The power of imposing fines upon tenants and vassals within the lordship.

† *Soccum*.—The power and authority of administering justice.

‡ *Tollum*.—A duty paid for buying or selling, &c.

§ *Team, Theam*.—A royalty granted for trying bondmen and villains, with a sovereign power over their villain tenants, their wives, children, and goods, to dispose of them at pleasure.

|| *Infangthefe*.—The power of judging of theft committed within the liberty of Furness.

of Furness, being well satisfied with the Benedictine rule, objected to the transfer, and, after a resolution taken in full chapter, sent their abbot Peter de Eboraco (York) to Rome, to plead with the Pope that they might be allowed to adhere to the mode of life they had at first adopted.

On his return, Peter met with rough treatment at the hands of the brethren of Savigny, because he had not followed the example of the mother monastery; for they intercepted him, and taking from him his abbacy, compelled him to learn the Cistercian rule, after which he received the abbacy of Quamore. Richard de Bayeux, once a monk of Savigny, but at that time an inmate of the abbey of St. Mary of Furness, where he was held in great repute for his piety and learning, had so won upon his brethren that he was chosen without opposition as the successor of Peter of York, and received the crozier accordingly. The affiliation was now no longer delayed, for Richard, being a Norman, favoured the views of the Savigny monks, and, the change being accepted by the brethren of Furness, they became Cistercians, to the laws of which order they scrupulously adhered until the general dissolution of monasteries. The Cistercians usually chose solitary and uncultivated places on which to rear their establishments, and for this reason they obtained exemption from payment of tithes for all their lands, whether tilled by themselves or by others belonging to them; thus we find the monks exerted themselves diligently in the improvement and working of the soil, particularly during the first ardour of their institution.

This order was devoted to the practice of penance, assiduous contemplation, and singing the Divine praises, and enjoyed many privileges and immunities, conferred upon them by successive popes and princes, and, in the case of certain houses of St. Bernard, peculiar benefits were bestowed. They were freed from attending any court that was distant more than two days' journey from the abbey, upon the trial of any cause whatever; and were clear from tithes for cattle, orchards, woods, underwoods, coppices, meadows, pastures, salt-works, mills, fisheries, &c. The ordinary had no power to

punish them for any crime, neither could their houses be visited by any one except their own abbot. Their benefactors, and those who frequented their mills, together with their friends and servants, were exempted from all excommunications. While belonging to the Benedictine order of Savigny, the dress of the monks consisted of a habit of grey cloth, but after they merged into the Cistercian order the dress was changed from grey to white. According to Cardinal Vitri, who wrote in the 13th century, "They used neither furs nor linen, and never ate any flesh, except in time of dangerous sickness ; they abstained even from eggs, butter, milk, and cheese, unless upon extraordinary occasions, and when given to them in alms. They had belonging to them certain religious lay brethren, whose office was to cultivate their lands, and to attend to their secular affairs ; these lived at their granges and farms, and were treated in like manner with the monks, but were never indulged with the use of wine. The monks who attended the choir slept in their habits upon straw ; they rose at midnight, and spent the rest of the night in singing the divine office. After prime and the first mass, having accused themselves of their faults in public chapter, the rest of the day was spent in a variety of spiritual exercises with uninterrupted silence. From the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14th September) until Easter they observed a strict fast. Their hospitality to strangers and their charity to the poor were extensive. Flesh was banished from their infirmaries from Septuagesima until Easter."

The restrictions with regard to rigorous silence were occasionally removed, opportunities being afforded them of conversing after dinner in the locutorium or parlour, and on certain special days, when they were permitted to walk abroad in company for exercise and relaxation ; but they were seldom allowed to receive or return visits. The lay brethren were also employed in performing the servile work of the monastery, and ministering to the temporal wants of the community. Many of these severe observances were relieved by Pope Sixtus IV., and in 1485 the whole order agreed to preserve uniformity in table and dress. From this time they were

allowed to eat flesh three times in every week, viz., on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday; for which purpose a particular dining-room, separate and distinct from the usual refectory, was fitted up in every monastery. Some of the monks were men of learning, and the best qualified of them were employed in copying books in every branch of literature, many of which, beautifully written on vellum, and elegantly illuminated, may still be seen in our museums.

“Whatever reproach may, at a later period, have been justly thrown on the indolence and luxury of religious orders, it was surely good that, in an age of ignorance and violence, there should be quiet cloisters and gardens, in which the arts of peace could be safely cultivated, in which gentle and contemplative natures could find an asylum, in which one brother could employ himself in transcribing the *Æneid* of Virgil, and another in meditating the *Analytics* of Aristotle, in which he who had a genius for art might illuminate a martyrology or carve a crucifix, and in which he who had a turn for natural philosophy might make experiments on the properties of plants and minerals. Had not such retreats been scattered here and there among the huts of a miserable peasantry, and the castles of a ferocious aristocracy, European society would have consisted merely of beasts of burden and beasts of prey. The Church has many times been compared by divines to the ark of which we read in the book of Genesis: but never was the resemblance more perfect than during that evil time when she alone rode, amidst darkness and tempest, on the deluge beneath which all the great works of ancient power and wisdom lay entombed, bearing within her that feeble germ from which a second and a more glorious civilization was to spring.”*

The Abbots.

The Abbey of Furness had a very singular custom, in which it differed from every other abbey of the same order, that of registering in the Mortuary, or Dead Book, the names of such of their abbots only as, having

* Macaulay's Hist. Eng., chap. i.

presided full ten years, continued and died abbots there. Those who, having ruled ten years, were either translated or deposed, and those who died before the expiration of the tenth year, were not entered ; so that in the space of 277 years there were only ten abbots recorded in the Mortuary.

The abbot exercised vice-regal power, had the assize of bread and ale throughout Furness, Aldingham and Ulverston excepted, the appointment of chief constable for the liberty, also free chase through all the district, and wrecks of sea on the coast, except in Aldingham. He had a free market and fair at Dalton, with a court of criminal jurisdiction, and a gaol in Dalton Castle, issued summonses by his own bailiff and the king's coroner, had the return of all writs and processes with the fees for their execution, and the sheriff with his officers were prohibited from entering his territories under any pretext whatever. The right to elect a coroner by writ of Chancery, directed to the lord of the liberty, was also granted to the abbot by King Edward I.

His lands and tenants were free of all regal exactions, and no man was to presume to disturb or molest the abbot or any of his tenants, on pain of forfeiting ten pounds to the king.

Moreover, he possessed the right to have two large boats for the carriage of goods, one upon Windermere and one upon Coniston Lake ; and also to have two lesser boats for fishing, with twenty nets each, upon these lakes.

The power and dignity of the office, and the constant hospitality kept up at his table, secured the attachment of many retainers, and the civil and ecclesiastical places of profit in his gift furnished him with frequent opportunities of serving his friends. It is not surprising, therefore, that the greatest families were induced to place some of their children in these seats of honour, wealth, and power, in order that they might, in due course, by cogent interest, attain the abbatical chair, and exercise all the rights and privileges which belonged to that high position.

In consequence of the monastery having sent out

several branches, the chief was styled Cardinal-abbot, and wore, in addition to a splendid costume, a mitre, and carried in his right hand a crozier resembling that of a bishop, but of simpler form, the pastoral staff of the latter dignitary being borne in the left hand.

For the maintenance of his power and prerogatives, as well as for the defence of the coast and the castle of Piel, the abbot kept up a numerous retinue of servants and armed followers, a quota of his vassals being at the service of the crown, according to the feudal system.

The abbots of Furness were lords in parliament, but owing to the isolated situation of the abbey, the dangerous nature of the roads, and the great distance from the metropolis, they do not appear to have sat in the great council of the kingdom, although several times summoned there.

Proceedings, Benefactions, and Revenues.

The Abbey of Furness was a mother monastery and had under her several other houses, some of which were direct filiations from Furness.

The first was Calder, in Cumberland, founded 10th of January, 1134; then Russin, now Rushen, in the Isle of Man, in the same year; and Swinshead in Lincolnshire, in 1148. Several branches in Ireland were afterwards obtained at different times, in the following manner:—Macniel, King of Ulster, translated the Abbey of Carryk to Inniscourcy, a peninsula opposite Downpatrick, on May 13th, 1180, endowing it with the lands of Carryk, and established there a body of monks from Furness Abbey. A colony of Furness monks, after residing for some time at Wyresdale, on the east coast of Morecambe Bay, removed into Ireland, and fixed themselves at Wothenehy, in the county of Limerick, in 1188.

In the year 1249, the abbot of Clairvaulx placed four monasteries under the control of the Abbey of Furness, namely, Fermoy, Wethirlagh or Holy Cross, and Innislaunagh, in Tipperary; and Corcumroe, in the county of Clare. Also, about the end of the twelfth century, Theobald Walter, fourth Lord Butler of Ireland, founded an establishment at Arklow, in county

Wicklow ; but although on the charter of the convent appears with other names that of Robert de Denton, Lord Abbot of Furness, there is no mention of this filiation in the Furness record.

At the request of Olave, King of the Isles, Nicholas de Meaux, abbot in the reign of King John, was translated to the bishopric of Sodor, in Man, in 1217, in which year also he died.

In addition to the munificent gift of Stephen, Earl of Bologne, many of the wealthy bestowed lands and other privileges upon the monks, either for general or special services, or in consideration of the favour of obtaining a last resting-place within the precincts of the abbey. They

“ Loved the church so well, and gave so largely to’t,
They thought it should have canopied their bones
Till doomsday—but all things have their end.”

The monks were careful to have the foundation charters of their houses confirmed by succeeding kings, for which they had often to pay considerable sums ; in some instances they found it necessary to make substantial presents to the minister of state to aid them in this matter.

They also took the precaution of securing all large donations by additional agreement in every descent from the first donor ; hence it is that there are found, in the chartularies of religious houses, the regular pedigrees of many families of consequence.

Sir Michael le Fleming, and William de Lancaster, eighth baron of Kendal, were large benefactors to the abbey, as were also the Kirkbys of Kirkby, the Broughtons of Broughton, and the Huddlestons of Millom. Subsequently the Penningtons, de Couplands, de Berdseys, and other families, enriched the monastery with endowments, until nearly the whole of the peninsula was in the hands of the Abbot of Furness, who ruled with undisputed sway. So large were the possessions of this establishment, in this and other countries, and to such an extent did its opulence augment, that it was surpassed by no religious house in the kingdom, except Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire ; and

its affairs of business were managed in accordance with the advice, suggestions, or decrees of the chapter, by a steward, often a person of high rank, who deemed it an honour to occupy the office. All the deeds and other documents required in the various transactions of the abbey were confirmed by the abbot, with the consent of his brethren, affixing to the parchments the common seal of the convent, a representation of which is here given.



An impression of the seal remains appendant to the deed of surrender, in the British Museum, and the following is an explanation of the device:—It consists of a circle, within the circumference of which is a figure of the Virgin Mary, beneath a canopy of three compartments, the centre one filled in with stars, and the other two with sprigs of the deadly nightshade, holding in suspension two shields, each charged with three lions passant guardant.* The Virgin holds in her left arm the infant Saviour whose head is surrounded by a halo of glory, and in her right hand a globe, as

* Three lions were not introduced into the arms of England until after the marriage of Henry II. with Eleanor of Aquitaine, and yet the abbey was founded in the reign of Henry I. The arms of Stephen are differently described: by some he is said to have borne three lions pass. gard.—by others, a sagittarius arg.

queen of the world. Below, and supporting the shields, are two monks in full dress with cowls ; before each, as well as overhead, are sprigs of nightshade. In the lower part is the figure of a wyvern—in heraldry a kind of dragon with wings, its lower parts resembling those of a snake. West supposes that this device was assumed by the monks in honour of Thomas Plantagenet, second Earl of Lancaster. The legend round the seal is,

SIGILLUM · COMMUNE · DOMUS · BEATE · MARIE
DE · FURNESIO.

i. e., the common seal of the house of the blessed Mary of Furness.

From a survey having been taken in pursuance of an act of parliament (26 Henry VIII.), two years before the final surrender of the abbey, we are enabled to form an estimate of the princely revenues which flowed into its coffers. The ecclesiastical rents, consisting of tithes, Lent oblations, and fines, amounted to £182 16s., and the temporal rents, which were paid partly in money and partly in kind, reached the value of £763 6s. 10*d.*, making an entire total of £946 2s. 10*d.*, equal to £5000 a year, according to the worth of money at the present day.

There were other branches of the abbot's revenues not taken cognizance of in this account of the rental and survey, which were the necessary fruits and consequences of the feudal system ; such were aids, reliefs, forfeitures, and escheats, fines upon the change of tenants by death or alienation. Whether the abbots of Furness took every advantage of their tenants for wardships and marriage does not appear, but it seems to have been otherwise at the time of making the agreement between the abbot Alexander and the tenants.

Another considerable branch of the abbot's income was derived from certain royalties and profits arising from the mines, wreck of sea, treasure trove, waifs, estrays, and deodands. There were also three iron forges, in the manor of Hawkshead, which paid a rent of £20 per annum.

Dissolution.

After the visitation of religious houses by the commissioners of King Henry VIII., all monasteries, priories, and nunneries, with an income of £200 a year and under, were given to the crown, 376 being thus suppressed in the year 1537. By sweeping away the smaller houses, the mendicant class of monastic orders, in which lay the strength of the Pope, was put down, and so the friars, who were the earliest to oppose the king's supremacy, were disposed of. The larger houses then took alarm, and endeavoured to protect themselves by realizing their property. Some of the superiors who were refractory were put out of the way by force; and the majority, by means of threats, persuasions, promises, and accusations of having secretly fomented rebellion in various parts of the country, were induced to resign their monasteries, those who gave up most freely obtaining the best conditions from the king. The monks of Furness were at length assailed; the storm of which they had heard with alarm as it spread over the country reached them in their quiet abode, and after being charged with treason, conspiracy, falsehood, and disrespect to the king, two of the brethren were committed to Lancaster Castle by the Earl of Sussex, and the abbot, Roger Pile, was taken to Whalley Abbey for further examination. Here he was prevailed upon by the crafty commissioners to make a formal proposal in writing for the surrender of his monastery to the king, on the 5th of April, in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of Henry VIII., the original document being now in the British Museum. The following extract will probably interest the reader:—

"That I, Roger, abbot of the monasterie of Furness, knowyng the mysorder and evyll liffs, both unto God and our prynce, of the bredern of the said monasterie, in discharging of my conscience, doo frelie and hollie surrender, giff, and grant unto the kyng's highnes, and to his heyres and assignes for evermore, all such interest and titill as I have had, have, or may have, of and in the said monasterie of Furnes, and of and in lands, rents, possessions, revenous, both spiri-

tuall and temporall, and of and in all goods and cattalls, and all other thyngs whatsoever it be, belongyng, or in any wise appertynyng to the said monasterie, and every part and parcell thereof."

In another part of the same deed he says, it "comyth frely of myself, and without any inforcement," though there is every reason to believe considerable pressure was brought to bear upon the poor perplexed Roger. No time was lost after this, for, four days later, the abbot, in full convocation, in the chapter house of the Abbey of Furness, whither he had been accompanied by the king's commissioners, who were then present, finally surrendered to them the Abbey and its belongings, four hundred and ten years after its establishment.

Translation of the Surrender of Furness Abbey.

"To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, I, Roger, by Divine Providence, Abbot of the Monastery of St. Mary of Furness, in the county of Lancaster, and the convent of the said monastery, send greeting :

"Know ye, that we the said abbot and convent, by our unanimous and full assent and consent, divers special considerations moving us interiorly thereto, as also for the use and defence of this kingdom, and for the good and safe government of these extreme parts of the said kingdom, have freely given, granted, and surrendered up, unto the hands of the lord the king that now is, Henry VIII., by the grace of God, King of England, &c., &c., our monastery of Furness aforesaid ; as also the site and foundation of the same ; and all goods and chattels, jewels and church ornaments, belonging to the said monastery ; and all dues, actions, and other things whatsoever appertaining, belonging, or due to us, or any of us, or to the said monastery ; and also all manner of demesnes, castles, manors, lands, tenements, advowsons of churches and chantries, knights' fees, rents, reversions, liberties, and services ; with all and all manner of our inheritances in Yorkshire, Lancashire, or elsewhere within the kingdom of England, in

Ireland, or the Isle of Man; to have and to hold all and singular the said monastery's demesnes, castles, manors, lands, tenements, advowsons of churches and chantries, with knights' fees, rents, reversions, liberties, and services, and all other our hereditaments and premises whatsoever, to our said lord the king, and his heirs, kings of England, for ever, in augmentation and increase of the honour of his royal majesty, and of his heirs, kings of England, and for the use and defence of this kingdom against its enemies and rebels. And, moreover, we will and desire, and unanimously give full consent and grant by these presents, that this our present act may be enrolled as well in the Court of Chancery of the duchy of Lancaster, of our said lord the king, and in his own court held before his justices in the county of Lancaster, as in the court of Chancery of the said lord the king held at Westminster, in the county of Middlesex, before the said lord the king, and before his justices there.

"In witness whereof we have, of our unanimous and full assent and consent to these presents, affixed our common seal. Given in our chapter house of the said monastery, the 9th day of April, in the twenty-eighth year of our said lord the king, and in the year of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, one thousand five hundred and thirty-seven.

"By me, ROGER, *Abbot of Furness.*

"By me, BRIAND GARNER, *Prior.*

(Here follow the signatures of twenty-eight monks.)

"Sealed and delivered in the presence of us, the day and year above specified:—Robert Sussex, Antony Fitzherbert, Thomas Boteler, Thomas Langton, Ryc. Hoghton, John Byron, John Claydon, priest, Marmaduc Tunstall."

In the end of the succeeding year, Abbot Roger was presented by the king to the living of Dalton, the profits of the rectory being then valued at £33 6s. 8d., the once proud ruler, to save himself from destitution, accepting one of his own dependent churches.

Not long after the dissolution of monasteries, Thomas Preston, of Preston Patrick and Levens, Esquire, pur-

chased the site and immediate grounds of the abbey from the trustees of the crown, with other considerable estates, to the value of £3000 a year, after which he removed from Preston Patrick, and resided at the abbey, in a manor house built on the spot where the abbot's apartments stood. The families of his two sons, John and Christopher, were known as the Prestons of the Abbey, and the Prestons of Holker. The elder branch possessed the abbey, four descendants residing there, Sir John Preston, the great grandson of the purchaser, being made a baronet, April 1st, 1644 ; and, dying without issue, was succeeded in the title and estates by his brother, Sir Thomas Preston, Bart.

This last died without male heirs, and his property in Furness was afterwards granted by George I. to Sir Thomas Lowther, Bart., son of William Lowther, Esq., of Marsh, Yorkshire (afterwards a baronet), and Catherine, his wife, who was the fifth in the direct line from Christopher Preston, of Holker, whose father bought the abbey.

The above-mentioned Sir Thomas Lowther, Bart., married Lady Elizabeth, daughter of William Duke of Devonshire, and was followed by his son and heir, Sir William Lowther, Bart., the last of the Prestons of Preston Patrick, who died in 1756, unmarried, bequeathing all his estates in Furness and Cartmel to his cousin, Lord George Augustus Cavendish. This nobleman never married, and at his death his property passed to his brother, Lord Frederick Cavendish, who, having no issue, was succeeded by his nephew, Lord George Augustus Henry Cavendish, third son of the fourth Duke of Devonshire, created Earl of Burlington at the coronation of William IV., Sept. 8th, 1831. He died May 9th, 1834, when the title and estates devolved upon his grandson, William, second Earl of Burlington and now seventh Duke of Devonshire.

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or an allowance at the rate of £6 per Week for Injury.

£650,000 HAVE BEEN PAID AS COMPENSATION;

**ONE out of every 12 Annual Policy Holders becoming
a Claimant each year.**

PARTICIPATION IN REALISED PROFITS!

*All Insurers who have paid Five continuous Premiums are allowed a
reduction of Ten per Cent. on future payments.*

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